



Yearbook

The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Virginia

Volume 29

2003-2004



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of
Fairfax County, Virginia
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Editors

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Front Cover: A detail of the trophy won by William L. Clark, "Knight of Virginia Boy," in a ring tournament at River View Resort in Maryland on August 15, 1906. Carved from a section of tree trunk, it has painted decorations and an applied painted wood figure of a ring tournament rider on a galloping horse. The horse's tail was made from a bird feather; the rider's lance from a long toothpick. Dimensions: Base of tree section = 10½ inches wide, 19¾ inches high, 2⅜ inches deep at the thickest part of base, and 3¼ inches deep near the thickest part of the top. *Fairfax County Park Authority Collections, Accession #1993-22-002.*

Back Cover: The last Springfield Station, which functioned primarily as a post office, stood on the north side of the Southern Railroad tracks just opposite of where the VRE's Backlick Station is located today. This picture was taken shortly before the post office was relocated and the station abandoned in 1953.

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IN MEMORIAM



Elizabeth David

Sen. Clive L. DuVal, II

Patricia A. Gallagher

Nan Netherton

Edith Moore Sprouse

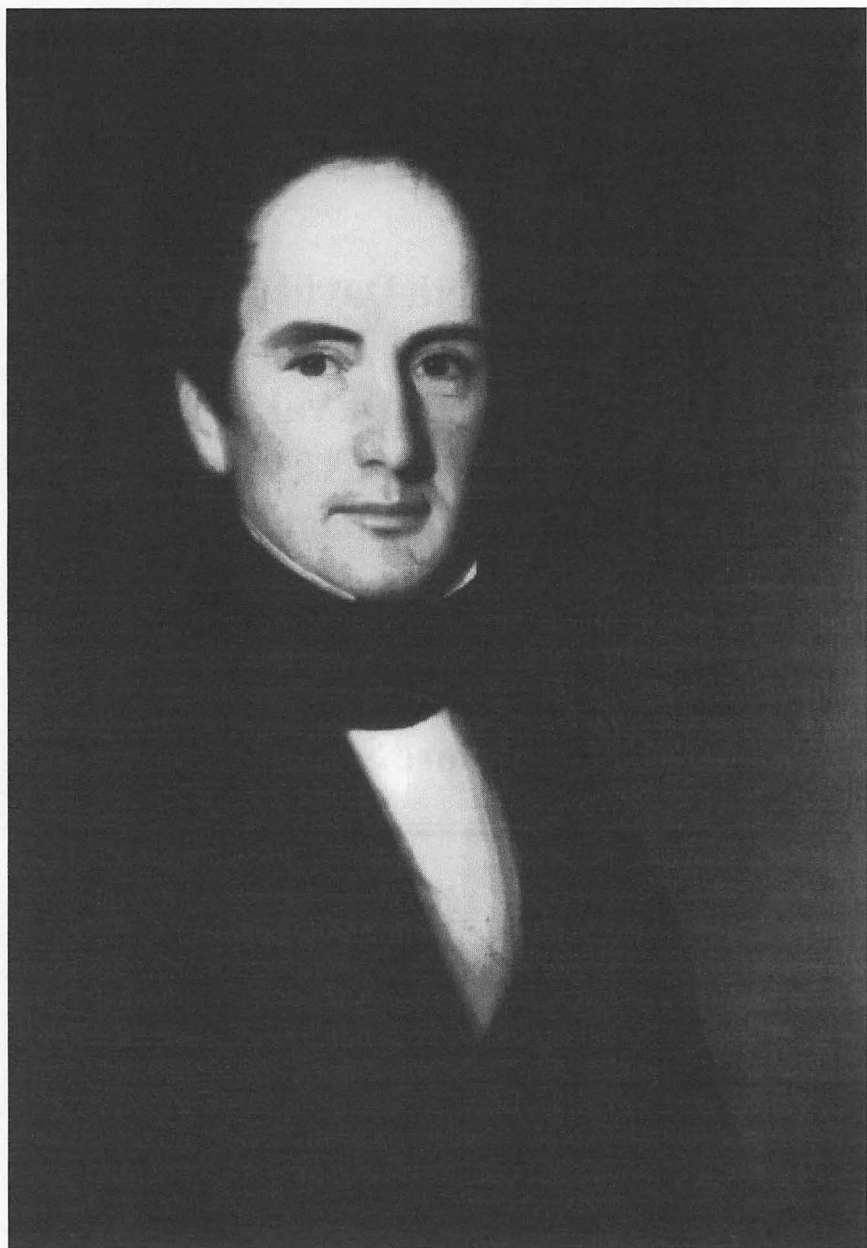


Figure 1. Henry Daingerfield (1800-1866), wealthy Alexandria entrepreneur and scion of early Virginia planters, acquired 920 acres in Fairfax County, Virginia, which he named "Springfield." His oil-on-canvas portrait was painted by John Beale Bordley ca. 1840-1845. Maryland Historical Society, Accession 1943-40-14

Henry Daingerfield and the Origin of Springfield

By
Jack Lewis Hiller

Jack Lewis Hiller lives in West Springfield. He has been a member of the Fairfax County History Commission since 1981 and currently chairs the Historical Marker Committee. Hiller taught history for 30 years at Groveton High School and West Potomac High School. He also taught history at Northern Virginia Community College. He is currently teaching in the Community Adult Education Program a course entitled: "The Fairfax Experience." He writes and speaks about the Springfield area, is a volunteer archaeologist with the Fairfax County Park Authority and a volunteer docent at Gunston Hall. He has contributed articles to the last four editions of the Yearbook.

From the Present to the Past

Since Springfield is unincorporated, it does not have well defined boundaries. Traditionally the borders would be Braddock Road on the north, Shirley Highway (Routes 395 and 95) on the east, the Fairfax County Parkway on the south, and Rolling Road on the west. But the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors created a defined Springfield Planning District that does not conform precisely to those lines. The northern boundary is the Southern Railroad, the eastern line is Beulah Road and the CSX Railroad, while the south extends to where Pohick Road crosses Route 95, but the west is still defined by Rolling Road.

The eastern boundary brings Franconia into the Springfield Planning District while the northern line omits the communities of Ravensworth, North Springfield, and Edsall Park.¹ The planning district covers 8,845 acres and includes approximately 50,000 people.² More than 430,000 vehicles pass through Springfield each day on their way north or south on Route 95 close to where it intersects with the Capital Beltway (Route 495).³

This is the post-World War II suburban, bedroom, commercial community that lies on top of the communities that have gone before.

If one peels back the layers of time it is possible to see how the settlements and land acquisition patterns of the past shaped the present community. Often unnoticed, the artifacts of earlier ambitions remain and are absorbed into the continuity of our own lives.

Today's Backlick Station, a stop on the Virginia Railroad Express (VRE) line, opened in 1992 to serve commuters traveling from outlying communities such as Manassas to Washington, D. C. or its suburbs. The VRE travels on the tracks of the Southern Railroad system. The station is on the south side of the tracks just off of Hechinger Drive close to where it meets Backlick Road. At one time this was the center of Springfield.

About two miles southeast another VRE station known as Springfield-Franconia is located on the tracks of the CSX line where it meets the terminal of Metrorail's Blue Line. Probably most people living in Springfield think of the intersection of Old Keene Mill Road and Backlick Road—about half way between the two stations—as being the heart of the community. But the center of Springfield expands and moves as the community grows and new transportation and commercial centers are created.

One hundred years ago (1903) Backlick Station was known as Springfield Station. It sat on the north side of the Southern Railroad directly across the tracks from where the VRE station is now. The station's name derived from the fact that it was in the middle of Springfield Farm. The nearest post office was two miles southeast at Franconia Station on the Alexandria and Fredericksburg Railroad where the CSX line now operates. It was called Garfield Post Office after the assassinated president. Phoebe A. Gillingham was the postmistress.⁴ Old Keene Mill Road and Franconia Road met at Backlick Road. Old Keene Mill and Franconia were together known simply as the Old Fairfax Road.⁵

One hundred years before that (1803) most of the area later to be named Springfield was part of an approximately 9,000-acre tract known as Ravensworth. William Fitzhugh, Jr. owned the property. Ravensworth was part of a much larger acquisition (21,996 acres) made by his great grandfather in 1694. This was the largest landholding in the history of what would become Fairfax County in 1742, covering over eight percent of the surface of the county. William Fitzhugh migrated to Virginia from Bedford, England, in about 1671 when he was twenty. He prospered as a lawyer, planter, and land speculator. Fitzhugh never lived on his Fairfax property. But he

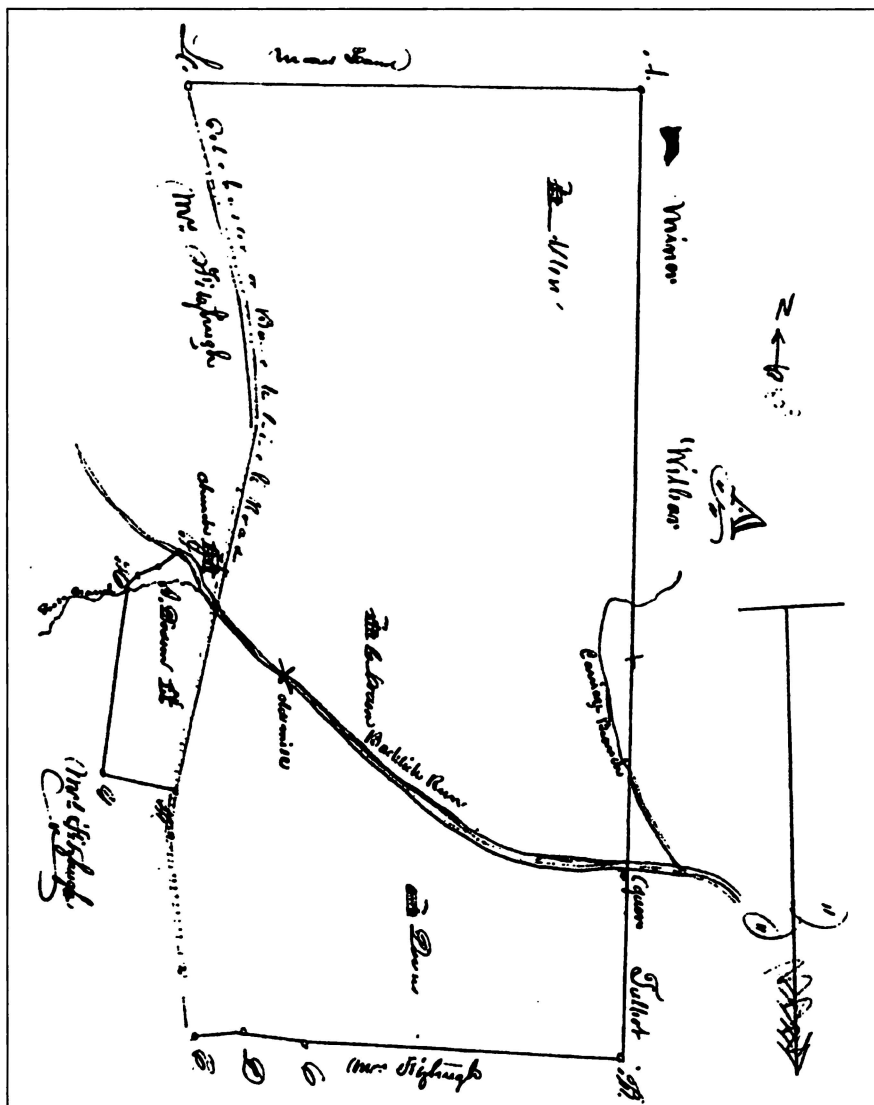


Figure 2. The first plat made of Henry Daingerfield's 920-acre land acquisition along the eastern edge of the Ravensworth estate, dated 16 January 1851 (FCDB P3:282). The plat shows the location of an old mill on Backlick Creek and the dwellings of several tenant farm families: the Allens, the Deavers, and the Dodsons. Note the location of the Backlick Baptist Church (founded by Jeremiah Moore, William Halley, Edward Potter, and Zachariah Morris in 1790) at the intersection of Backlick Road and the creek.

expressed a desire that “french Protestants [*sic*]” be settled there.⁶ There is no documentary evidence proving that happened, however.

After his death in 1701 Ravensworth was divided between his sons, William and Henry, along a line approximating the location of Braddock Road. The northern portion of about 12,000 acres, given to Henry, would eventually become Annandale. The southern part, which would pass from William to his son Henry to his son William Jr., would become Springfield.⁷

William Jr. moved from his home, Chatham, just across the Rappahannock River from Fredericksburg, to Alexandria in 1797. This put him closer to his Fairfax County property upon which he built a new home, Ravensworth. The home was located where the Ravensworth Shopping Center now stands at the intersection of Port Royal Road and Braddock Road. It was destroyed by fire in 1926.

The eastern edge of William Jr.’s Ravensworth property is a south-to-north line running from Newington near Telegraph Road along Frontier Drive east of the Springfield Mall to Braddock Road where the road turns sharply northeast toward Jefferson High School.⁸ Parallel to, and approximately three quarters of a mile west of, that boundary is Backlick Road. The origin of the name is a mystery. It passed through (today it passes over) Backlick Creek. “Lick” conveys the idea of a place where animals could get salt, but which was named first, the creek or the road, is impossible to know.

Backlick is one of the oldest roads in Fairfax County. It appears in the first map of the county surveyed in about 1745 to 1748 by Daniel Jenings connecting Dogue (Mason) Neck and the tobacco port of Colchester with the new courthouse at what is today known as Tyson’s Corner.⁹ In fact, George Washington’s sketch of the roads between Little Hunting Creek and Colchester done between 1765 and 1767 refer to it as the “road to the old ct house.”¹⁰ Some old maps label it Colchester Road and others title it Annandale Road. Apparently one’s destination determined the name of the road. Old Fairfax Road (Franconia Road) probably intersected with, and ended at, Backlick Road in 1803. Old Keene Mill Road, extending west to Rolling Road, was not created until 1875.¹¹

Before William Jr. died in 1809 he gave 800 acres to each of his two daughters and the remainder to his infant son, William Henry Fitzhugh. One of those daughters, Ann Randolph, died in 1806.¹² The land she received from her father was located between Backlick Road and the eastern boundary of Ravensworth. She was married

to William Craik who acquired the acreage and passed it on to his son, James Craik, by will. James, in turn, sold it to William H. Thompson of Alexandria in 1836.¹³

Six months later William H. sold the land to Israel P. Thompson of St. Louis, Missouri.¹⁴ Israel Thompson held it for fifteen years, probably as a speculative investment; finally selling what was now 920 acres to Henry Daingerfield on 1 January 1851 for \$5,980.¹⁵ By this time several tenant families—Dodson, Deavers and Allen—were living on the land. Their descendants still live in the suburban area.

Today Henry Daingerfield's land includes all or parts of at least six subdivisions, Shirley Industrial Park, Shirley Highway (Routes 395 and 95), the Beltway (Route 495) and the new interchange between them.¹⁶ The southern boundary of his property extended from where Essex Street meets Backlick Road on the west to just above where Palamino Street meets Frontier Drive on the east. This line runs through the modern subdivisions of Lynbrook on the west side of Shirley Highway to Springfield Estates on the east side. The northern boundary of his 920 acres is Braddock Road. The western boundary follows Backlick Road, except for about twenty-six acres west of Backlick Road running from St. Mark's Lutheran Church north to Backlick Creek. In 1851 his property contained, in addition to a lot of land, a dirt road, and a creek (both called Backlick) where an old mill stood, and a few tenant farmers. Daingerfield called it "Springfield."¹⁷

Entrepreneur

Henry Daingerfield was a socially prominent entrepreneur in Alexandria whose Virginia ancestry dated from the 1600s. His father was Captain Bathurst Daingerfield, a mariner by profession who settled in Alexandria in 1800 and became surveyor of the port in the 1820s. While on a voyage to Liverpool, England, in 1795 he married Eliza Kay.¹⁸ That may have been where Henry was born in 1800.¹⁹

The lives of Captain Bathurst and his brothers, Doctors William A. and H. P. Daingerfield, mark a transition for the family. The previous four generations of Daingerfields were Northern Neck planters whose social rank and civic duties carried such titles as colonel or major. The professions of sea captain and medical doctor, and the more urban setting in which they lived, represented a departure from the family pattern.

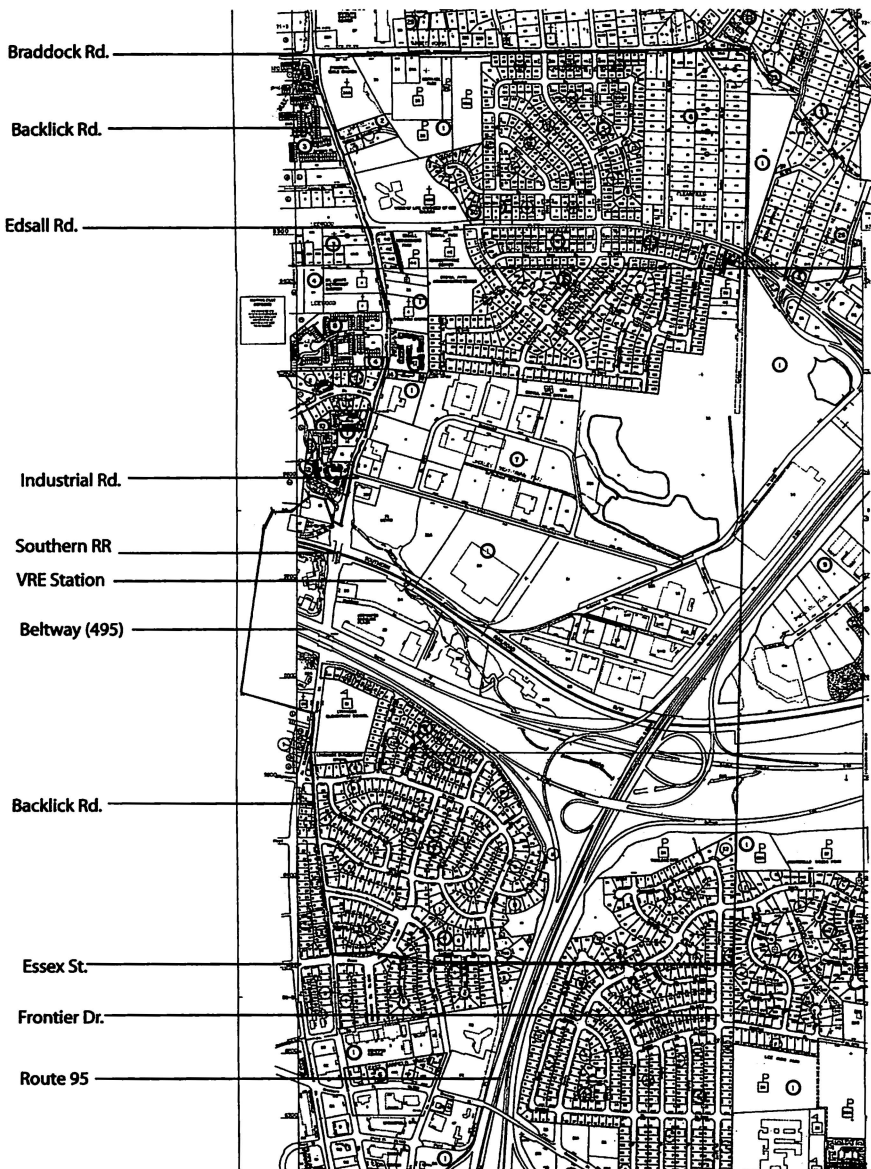


Figure 4. An outline of Henry Daingerfield's 920-acre tract superimposed on a modern property map shows the impact of post-World War II suburbanization. The artifacts of time and technology are absorbed into the continuity of the present. Labels by author.

Not all of the Daingerfields were successful planters. Henry's grandfather, Colonel William Daingerfield of Belvidera in Spotsylvania County, fell upon financial hard times. On 5 January 1783 he cut his own throat.²⁰ In attempting to figure out why Colonel Daingerfield would have done this, historian Edward Riley concludes: "The loss of the tobacco for which he sold his New Kent land was not sufficient to bankrupt him. Apparently he had become mentally unbalanced by worry from unknown causes."²¹ This is a behavior that will repeat itself in the Daingerfield family.

Young Henry grew up and thrived in the commercial hustle and bustle of Alexandria. By the time he was seventeen he was partnered with his brothers, Bathurst and Edward, in the import-export shipping business.²² He served on the Board of Directors for the Bank of the Potomac for four years and was a director of the Marine Insurance Company in 1829. In the same year he was elected to the "Common Council" from the 3rd Ward. He probably felt, as did many other Alexandria businessmen, that the city did not benefit commercially from having been incorporated into the District of Columbia when the District was organized in 1801. In 1830 he was listed as a "Commissioner" to consider building the Alexandria Canal link to Georgetown where the C&O Canal terminated.²³ This would provide a water route between the Shenandoah Valley and the port of Alexandria.

Naturally, a man of Henry Daingerfield's station would be expected to participate prominently in social affairs. He was assistant marshal at the ceremony and procession marking the deaths of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson in 1826. He recited the Declaration of Independence at the 4th of July celebration at the Second Presbyterian Church in 1830. He was on the vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. He was a pallbearer for George Washington Parke Custis, Martha Washington's grandson and the builder of Arlington. All of these matters gained mention in the *Alexandria Gazette* newspaper.²⁴

The handsome young man married well when on 21 October 1823 he wed Susan J. B. Sewall in St. Paul's Episcopal Church.²⁵ She was a member of a prominent Catholic Maryland family and a descendent of Colonel Henry Darnall, a relative of Lord Baltimore. Her mother was Mary "Polly" Brent from another well-known Maryland family whose early ancestors were among the first Catholics to move into Virginia. Margaret Brent was the original patent holder to the land upon which Alexandria was built.²⁶ Susan's father, Robert Sewall, owned Poplar Hill, today known as His Lordship's Kindness, in Prince

George's County, Maryland. The home was completed in 1787 on 7,000 acres given by Lord Baltimore to Henry Darnall in 1703.²⁷

In 1800 Robert Sewall completed building a town house at the intersection of Constitution Avenue, 2nd Street, and Maryland Avenue on Capitol Hill.²⁸ Today it is known as the Sewall-Belmont House and serves as the headquarters of the National Women's Party.²⁹ That may have been where Susan was born in 1803, but the family undoubtedly lived in both homes depending on the season of the year.

Nine years after their marriage, Henry and Susan bought a large home at 706 Prince Street on the southeast corner of the intersection with Columbus Street in Alexandria. The house had belonged to Thomas Swann, a prominent attorney, between 1803 and 1825. Henry probably had it remodeled in the "Victorian style."³⁰ The building still stands and has been subdivided into condominiums. The size and grandeur of the house announced the status of its new owners. Its walls reflected the laughter and play of their two daughters, four-year old Susan and one-year old Ellen.

On occasion, those same walls muffled the sounds of tragedy. The first occasion was the death of Henry's wife, Susan, on 27 January 1837. The *Alexandria Gazette* carried a simple terse announcement three days later.³¹ No reason was given. She was just 34 years old. Susan Sewall Daingerfield was buried at the place where she grew up, Poplar Hill, close to two of her children, Mary Bathurst and Robert, who had died in infancy.³²

Twenty-one months later, on 1 November 1838, Henry married Rosalie Taylor in Alexandria's Christ Church.³³ She was the daughter of Robert I. Taylor, an "eminent lawyer of Alexandria."³⁴ Rosalie died less than three years later on 22 June 1841 "after a protracted illness . . . in the 25th year of her age."³⁵ She was buried in the First Presbyterian Cemetery.³⁶ They had no children.

Six years later, on 9 December 1847 in Baltimore, Henry Daingerfield married for the third time.³⁷ Eliza Ridgley Johnson, 22 years old, was the daughter of Reverdy Johnson, a brilliant constitutional lawyer who served as Attorney General under Zachary Taylor and who also served in the Maryland state legislature, the United States Senate and as ambassador to Great Britain. Johnson was a moderate Whig who turned Democrat. He supported President Andrew Johnson in the battle to remove the president from office. He opposed the Civil War, yet defended many southerners charged with disloyalty and he opposed Negro suffrage. With Eliza Johnson,

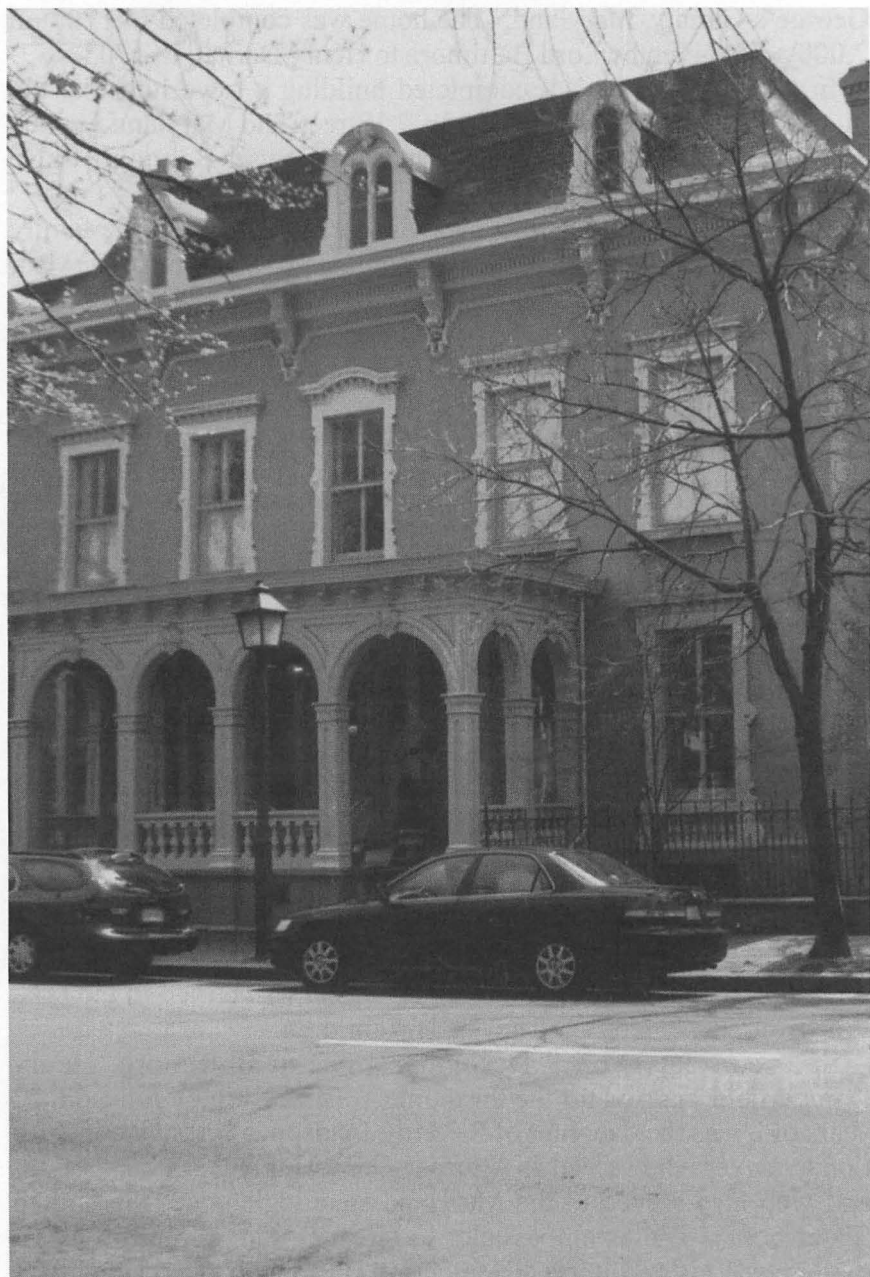


Figure 5. The Swan-Daingerfield House at 706 Prince Street in Alexandria was acquired by Henry Daingerfield in 1832 and remained the family home until the early 1900s. Today it is condominiums. Photograph taken by Jack Lewis Hiller in October 2003

Henry had three sons: Henry (II), Lorenzo Lewis and Reverdy Johnson Daingerfield. Two of them, Henry and Reverdy, lived to maturity.³⁸

By 1850 Henry Daingerfield owned real estate valued at \$90,000. In the next sixteen years his holdings grew to include approximately 1,926 acres outside of Alexandria and 30 lots within the city equal in value to \$152, 619.³⁹ Two hundred sixty-nine of those acres were just north of the city through which the Alexandria Canal passed. Daingerfield called it his "Island Farm." Today it is known as Daingerfield Island where the George Washington Memorial Highway passes between Alexandria and the Reagan National Airport. Daingerfield seemed to speculate in land located near new routes of transportation that he had a hand in creating.

That was certainly the case at his "Springfield Farm," which he acquired in January 1851. By July that same year, tracks for the recently organized Orange and Alexandria Rail Road (O&A) were laid across his land. The moment was captured in a journal entry dated 4 July 1851 made by Richard Marshall Scott of Bush Hill. From his home that stood on high ground overlooking the route of the tracks, Scott wrote: "We witnessed for the first time today, a train passing over the Orange & Alexandria Railroad carrying about 600 persons who were going on an excursion up the road to Backlick, a distance of 11 miles from Alexandria, and present termination of the rails . . ."⁴⁰

The fact that the train was going to cross property he purchased seven months earlier came as no surprise to Henry Daingerfield. He had been appointed to the Board of Directors for the railroad on 9 May 1849.⁴¹ On 31 May 1852 he also purchased the Goldsborough Tract further to the west, part of the original Ravensworth estate that was given by William Henry Fitzhugh to his stepdaughter, Mary Caroline Goldsborough. This was 388 acres between Rolling Road and Burke over which the O&A tracks continued toward Fairfax.⁴² The pattern of his land acquisitions suggests that Daingerfield was betting land values would increase in direct proportion to the proximity of the tracks. In fact, the majority of landowners permitted the tracks to cross their property without charge in the hope that their land values would increase.⁴³

It appears that Daingerfield decided to actually farm at least some part of his land. In 1861 he is recorded on the Fairfax Personal Property Tax list as owning 8 slaves, 12 horses, 25 cattle, and 25 hogs.⁴⁴ Just before his death in 1866 he decided to sell 80 acres to John Dean

and 100 acres to John Bennett. These men may have been tenants on his property or overseers for the farm. The sale had to be completed in a suit brought by Dean and Bennett against Daingerfield's heirs.⁴⁵

In addition, he built a train station. Its size and date of construction are unknown. Its probable purpose was to service his farm rather than to serve the general public. The fact that he, rather than the railroad, built it is established by court documents showing he was in the process of selling it when he died.⁴⁶ A plat drawn in connection with that sale shows the station to be on the south side of the tracks just about where the present VRE station stands.

War

Whatever Daingerfield's plans were for his Springfield Farm, they were interrupted by events beyond his control. On 24 May 1861 Union troops entered and occupied Alexandria. This was the first move made by the United States government against Virginia after the state withdrew from the Union on 17 April.

On that day Alexandria's Confederate Battalion met before dawn at the Lyceum, then marched down Duke Street to board railroad cars headed west for Manassas.⁴⁷ Daingerfield's sentiments and his role as a director of the railroad are obvious in a telegram he sent to General Robert E. Lee from Manassas, dated 24 May 1861:

General R. E. Lee:

Five thousand troops entered Alexandria at 5 o'clock this morning. Our troops retreated in good order just ahead of the enemy. The bridges on the road burnt as far as Fairfax Station. The troops all here.

HENRY DAINGERFIELD⁴⁸

Alexandria would remain occupied for the duration of the Civil War.

Since the railroad was a new and convenient way to transport troops and supplies it became the subject of military skirmishing and raids by local citizens sympathetic to the Confederate cause. Union General W. B. Franklin sent this report to General George McClellan from Springfield Station on 3 October 1861:

Eight hundred men of Newton's brigade, under the command of Colonel Pratt, Thirty-first New York Regiment, went out to Springfield today with a train for wood and sleepers [railroad ties]. They drove in the enemy's pickets at Springfield with no loss, and brought off thirty-two car loads of wood and sleepers. They heard rumors of a large force of the enemy at Annandale, some 8,000, but I do not think the information reliable. Colonel Pratt conducted the expedition with great judgment.

W. B. FRANKLIN
Brigadier-General⁴⁹

During Confederate Major General J.E.B. Stuart's raid on Burke's Station on 28 September 1862, twelve men under Brigadier General Fitzhugh Lee were dispatched to destroy the wooden railroad bridge trestle over the Accotink Creek. They succeeded in doing that.⁵⁰

On 3 August 1863, almost a year later, the *Alexandria Gazette* recorded another action at Springfield:

It is said that the raid on Saturday night at Springfield Station, on the Orange & Alexandria R. R., was made by a number of Confederates from Prince William and Fairfax Counties, under the command of Cornelius Kincheloe of Fairfax, with Francis C. Davis, of Prince William as first lieutenant. They tore up some of the rails, but [with] a train of U.S. soldiers coming up, they dispersed.⁵¹

Union General Henry W. Halleck published an announcement in the *Gazette* on 3 August that "a number of citizens along the line of that road, suspected of being implicated in the late raids, have been arrested by the U.S. military authorities."⁵² Soon after Halleck's announcement was published, Confederate Major John Mosby captured "ten or a dozen sutler's [provisioner's] wagons on Tuesday, (Aug 11) about 6 o'clock, near Accotink Bridge."⁵³

The only Civil War description we have of Springfield Station comes from a letter written by a Union soldier, Lieutenant Cornelius L. Moore, to his sister on 29 December 1861:

Springfield Station where our Brigade was ordered when we marched into Virginia, and which we passed on the Railroad yesterday, is rather a desolate settlement, if it deserves that title, being composed of but three dwelling houses, and a desolate Station House.⁵⁴

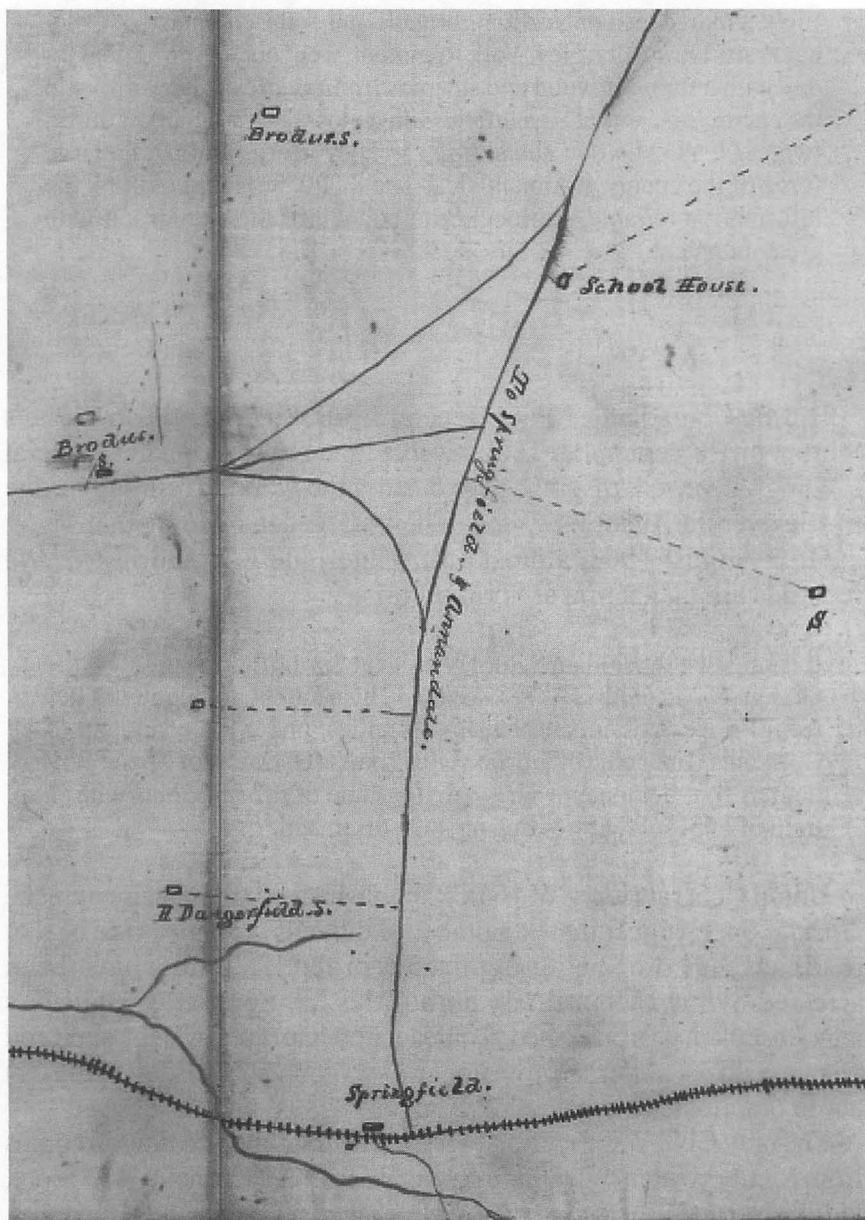


Figure 6. Lieutenant F. F. Meade, Company I, 16th New York Infantry Volunteers, made this map showing the location of Springfield Station in 1861 on the south side of the tracks. The map is oriented with the south at the top and north at the bottom of the page. It also shows that Henry Daingerfield built a house south of the railroad. The line labeled Annandale is Backlick Road. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division

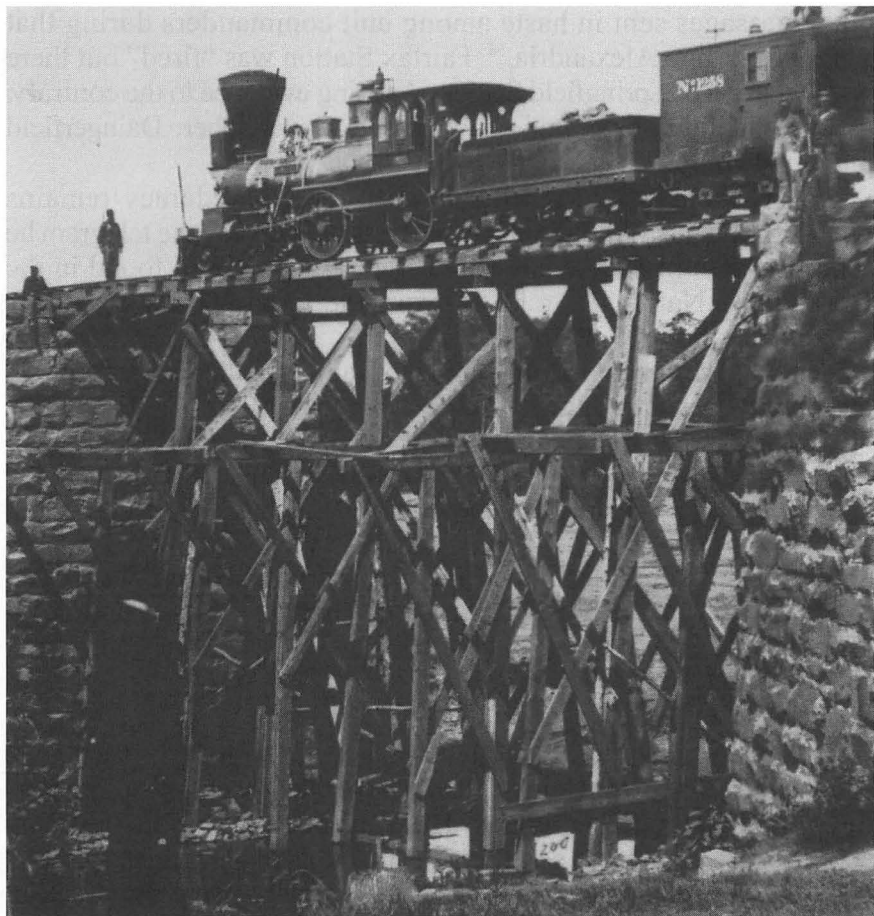


Figure 7. This Andrew J. Russell photograph of the Orange & Alexandria Railroad engine "Firefly" passing over the Accotink Creek railroad trestle was made in early 1863, after Union engineers rebuilt the trestle following its destruction in December 1862 by Confederate forces. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Civil War Photographs

A story often repeated in local literature is that retreating Union forces destroyed Springfield Station in August 1862 after the Second Battle of Manassas. However, there is no documentary evidence to support such a claim. In fact, there is some circumstantial evidence suggesting that it was not true. An 1865 plat exists showing the station still located on the south side of the track.⁵⁵ In addition, General Herman Haupt, Chief of U.S. military railroads, in his *Reminiscences*

cites messages sent in haste among unit commanders during that retreat back into Alexandria.⁵⁶ Fairfax Station was “fired” but there is no mention of Springfield Station. Lacking evidence to the contrary, the original Springfield Station will have to remain where Daingerfield put it, untouched by the war.

Henry Daingerfield’s full role with the Confederacy remains unknown; but his sympathy and support is revealed by the telegram he sent to General Lee and a receipt dated 10 April 1862 found in the files of the National Archives from the Confederacy to Henry Daingerfield for \$78.50 for hay.⁵⁷

The final document found relating to Daingerfield is a brief entry in the *Gazette* dated 18 January 1866:

Henry Daingerfield died January 16, 1866 at Poplar Hill, his residence In Prince George’s County, Maryland.

His final resting place is beside his first wife, Susan Sewall, on property that passed from her to their daughters, Susan and Ellen Daingerfield.

Scandal

Just before he died, Daingerfield was in the process of selling portions of his Springfield property. His death occurred before the transactions were completed so the buyers had to take the heirs to court to complete the sale. As mentioned before, 180 acres were sold to Dean and Bennett. The train station, the one-half acre it sat upon, and six additional acres on the west side of Backlick Road were sold to Timothy Murphy.⁵⁸ Murphy was a native of Ireland who took an oath on 1 August 1862 to “remove forever all allegiance and fidelity to . . . Victoria Queen of Great Britain and Ireland.”⁵⁹ He became Springfield’s first postmaster, serving at the station from 28 August 1866 until the post office was discontinued on 9 September 1868.⁶⁰

The remainder of Henry Daingerfield’s considerable estate was divided among his widow, Eliza, and his four children, Susan, Ellen, Henry [II], and Reverdy by the Circuit Court for Alexandria County in 1870. The widow received one-third and each of the children received one-sixth of an estate valued at \$152,619.36.⁶¹ In that arrangement Eliza received one-third of Springfield Farm (286 acres) and one-third of the Goldsborough tract (127 acres) in Burke. Her



Figure 8. Poplar Hill sits on land known as “His Lordships Kindness” in Prince George’s County, Maryland. The Georgian house, completed in 1787, was inherited by Susan Sewall Daingerfield and passed on to her daughters Susan and Ellen. Photograph taken by Jack Lewis Hiller in April 1999

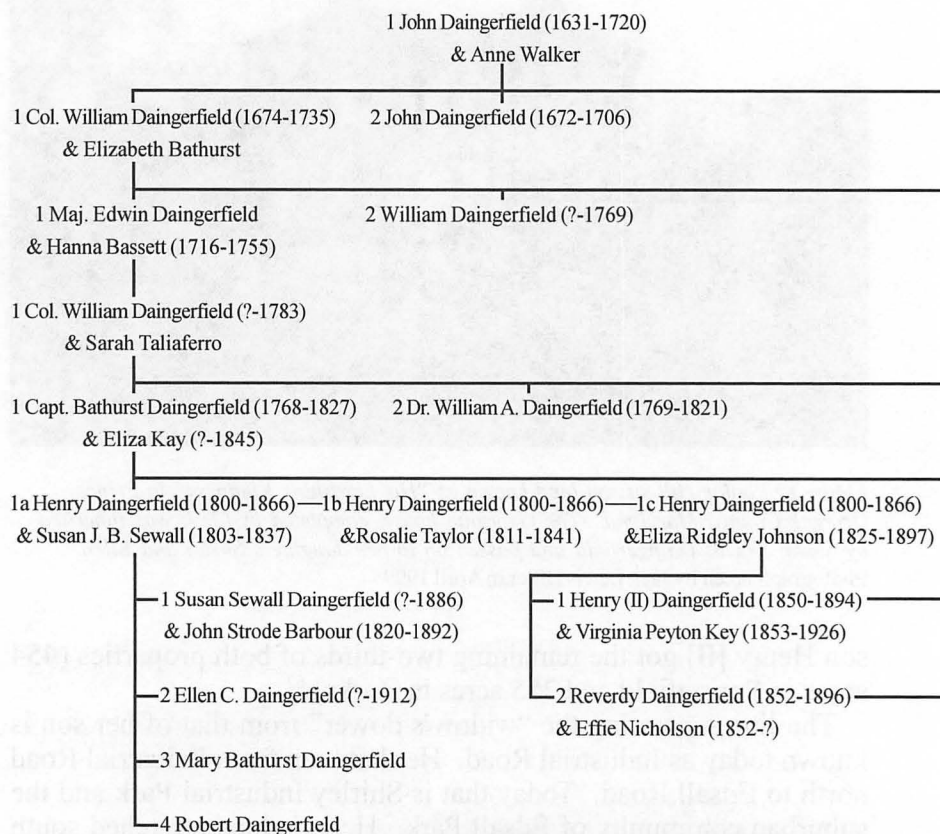
son Henry [II] got the remaining two-thirds of both properties (454 acres in Springfield and 255 acres in Burke).⁶²

The line separating the “widow’s dower” from that of her son is known today as Industrial Road. Her land ran from Industrial Road north to Edsall Road. Today that is Shirley Industrial Park and the suburban community of Edsall Park. Henry’s land stretched south from Industrial Road to Essex Street and Backlick Road on the west across Shirley Highway to Frontier Drive on the east. This was the first major division of Springfield Farm. The railroad tracks ran through his land.

Eliza Johnson Daingerfield continued to live at 706 Prince Street in Alexandria. She was 41 years old at the time of her husband’s death. Henry [II] was 16 and Reverdy was 14. Both boys lived with their mother. Susan, Henry’s first daughter by Susan Sewall, was only five years younger than her stepmother. Susan married John Strode Barbour, president of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, in 1865. He went on to have a distinguished career as a United States Congressman (1881-1887) and Senator (1887-1892).⁶³ They lived at the Sewall House on Capitol Hill, which Susan inherited from

The Daingerfield Family

A Partial Genealogy



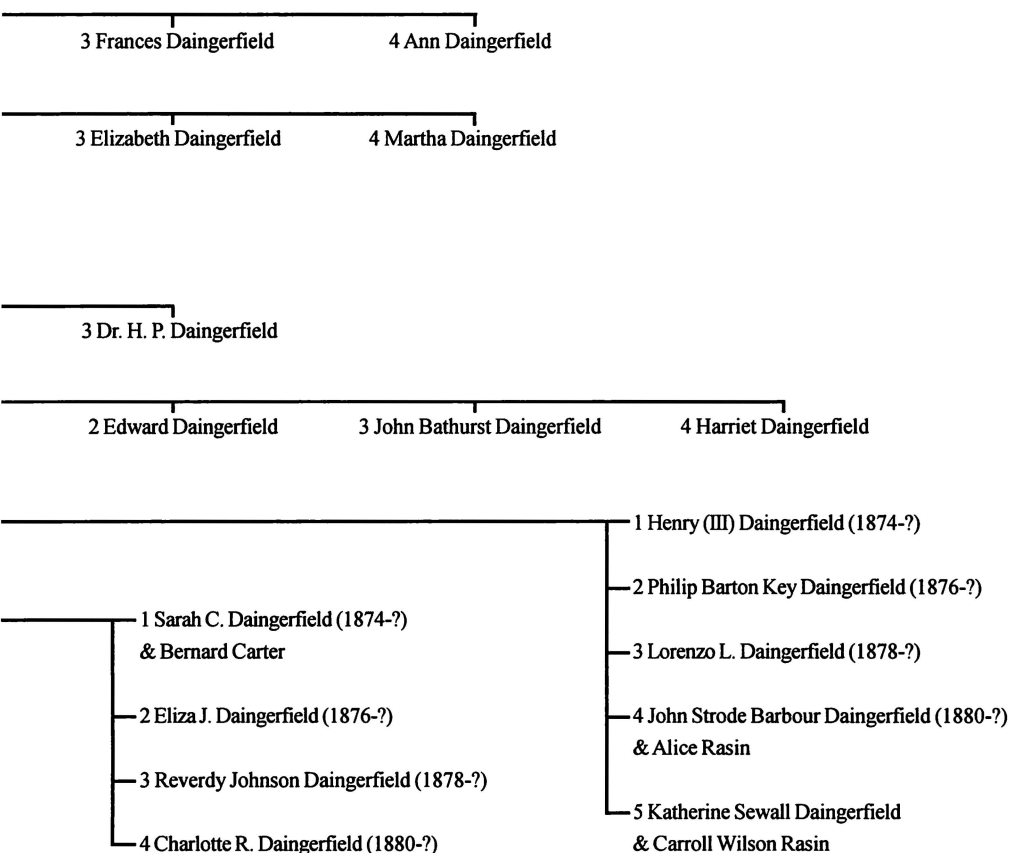


Figure 9. Henry Daingerfield's gravestone, shown at left, in the cemetery at Poplar Hill. Nearby are the tombs of Henry [III] and Reverdy. Both brothers committed suicide two years apart. Susan Sewall Daingerfield, Henry's first wife, and their children are buried here, along with Senator John Strode Barbour. Photograph taken by Jack Lewis Hiller in April 1999

her mother. Ellen, two years younger than Susan, never married and was probably living at Poplar Hill at the time of her father's death.⁶⁴

Both boys eventually married women from long-established and distinguished families. Henry [II] married Virginia Peyton Key, the daughter of Phillip Barton Key and cousin of Francis Scott Key, who wrote the *Star Spangled Banner*.⁶⁵ Reverdy married Effie Nicholson, daughter of a prominent Baltimore family related to Charles Carroll of Carrollton.⁶⁶ Both boys brought their wives to 706 Prince Street where they started their families. Henry [II] and Virginia eventually had five children. Reverdy and Effie had four. According to the Census of 1880, thirteen people were living in that house—plus three servants.

On 31 August 1890 *The Washington Post* carried a story headlined "It May Cause A Duel." The story was the first of several in the last decade of the 1800s that drew unwanted and scandalous public attention to this prominent family. It centered on an incident that occurred at Asbury Park, New Jersey, a place where some well-to-do families of Alexandria spent their summers. A young man, well known in horse racing circles and a friend of Reverdy Daingerfield, Edmond Blunt, in an apparently very drunken state, attempted to "assault" Effie Daingerfield. Blunt was arrested and the New Jersey and New York papers carried the story. They tried to create a relationship between Blunt and Effie Daingerfield centered around her nursing him back to health after he had been shot in a bar as a result of another drinking incident the previous year.

Reverdy rushed to New Jersey and brought his wife to her sister's home in the District. Then he returned to Alexandria to hold discussions with friends and family to determine a course of action. Whispers of a duel circulated around the city. But Reverdy chose to issue a clarification of the incident to *The Washington Post* through a spokesman:

There was no doubt that Blunt was so badly intoxicated that he was not responsible for his act. He was crazed. His wife's injuries were not particularly severe. Mr. Thompson [Reverdy's spokesman] said that Mr. Daingerfield had informed him that Blunt did not choke his wife, as reported, but merely seized her hands. His wife's treatment was no worse than that received by other members of the household where Mrs. Daingerfield was boarding.⁶⁷

He further added that she had not seen Blunt for some time previous to his being shot and had not seen or spoken to him prior to the incident.

On 25 September, the following month, the *Gazette* published a letter that had been sent to Reverdy Daingerfield from Edmond Blunt dated 13 September 1890:

Without knowing how to address you, or what I shall say, I only know that I can keep silent no longer with regard to my terrible conduct toward Mrs. Daingerfield. . . . As I remember it, this is what happened. Learning for the first time, that evening, that Mrs. Daingerfield was staying at Asbury Park, I determined to call upon her, although I was then quite drunk. I did call but was told that she was out, but would shortly return. I went off and, after taking several more drinks, I called again. I have only confused recollections of the servants saying that I was too drunk to see Mrs. Daingerfield and my insisting upon doing so. What else happened between that time and my finding myself locked up in the station house is as entirely a blank to me as though it had never happened. . . . I only know that I would give my life to right the wrong that I have done innocent people. There is nothing that could be demanded of me that I would not gladly do to make amends in some degree, if such a thing is possible.

This was Reverdy Daingerfield's public justification for not pursuing the matter further. Blunt's letter to Reverdy implies that Mr. Daingerfield was the only aggrieved party. There is no evidence that he ever apologized directly to Mrs. Daingerfield.

Both Henry [II] and Reverdy listed their occupations in the 1880 Census as "farmers." This strikes one as an odd occupation for two young men living under their circumstances. Perhaps the expression "gentlemen farmer" might have been a more accurate description. If Reverdy was farming, it was probably on the 64 acres he inherited on Daingerfield Island. Henry [II] would be farming in Springfield.

Between 1875 and 1894 Henry [II] and Virginia sold off small amounts of farmland to neighbors.⁶⁸ They sold almost seven acres as a gravel quarry to the Richmond-Danville Railroad.⁶⁹ In 1888 they actually made a large land purchase—119 acres from Frances Grehan, west of Backlick Road on the old Fitzhugh estate.⁷⁰ Today this includes the subdivisions of Crestwood, Springfield Village, and

Springfield Park. In 1893 *The Fairfax Herald* announced that Henry [II] was building a “commodious summer residence on his farm near Springfield Station.”⁷¹ The *Gazette* called “his home, Springfield, one of the finest in this section of Virginia.”⁷² Today the Guiffre Beer Distributing Company on Industrial Drive owns and occupies that land.

Wednesday, 21 August 1894 was expected to be a fair day with winds switching to the north rendering it somewhat cooler. The Daingerfields were making preparations to leave by train at 2:30 PM for Cold Sulphur Springs to “take the waters.” Shortly after 9:00 AM a loud report was heard throughout the house at 706 Prince Street. The family was drawn quickly to Henry’s room and found him “unconscious, and with a bullet hole in his right temple.” Groping for an explanation, the *Gazette* noted:

Mr. Daingerfield had been a victim of insomnia and consequently suffered from hypochondria. It is supposed that while suffering from these disorders, and during temporary aberration of mind, he committed the fatal act . . .⁷³

Twenty-two months later, on 17 June 1896, also a Wednesday, the tragedy repeated itself. Reverdy got up a 6:00 AM, put on his bathrobe, walked into the bathroom and shot himself. The *Gazette* carried the story:

For the second time in less than two years, and before time had modified the previous affliction, was the household called upon to witness a terrible scene—a dying husband and father—a second victim of suicidal mania.⁷⁴

Again the *Gazette* attempted to come up with an explanation:

Mr. Daingerfield, while apparently in his usual good spirits yesterday, is said by those who were in more intimate relations with him to have shown signs of melancholia, although no one dreamed he was meditating any attempt on his own life, and supposed his depression was the result of ordinary business worry.⁷⁵

Eliza Daingerfield was too grief stricken to attend the funerals of either son. Both boys were buried beside their father in the family cemetery at Poplar Hill in Maryland. One year after Reverdy’s death,

Eliza suffered a paralytic stroke and a second one in September 1897. On 28 December 1897 she died. She was 72 years old.⁷⁶ The Daingerfield estate now passed to a third generation—widow Virginia Key Daingerfield and her five children, and widow Effie Nicholson Daingerfield and her four children.

A final public humiliation came in March 1899. It was in the form of a suit brought by Virginia Key Daingerfield to break the will of Eliza Daingerfield. Eliza had written two wills—one in 1883 and another in 1894, after the death of her son Henry, apparently making an even division of her property. She wrote a third will in 1895 that left virtually everything to Reverdy's family. Virginia's course of action meant a public trial, newspaper coverage, the exposure of very private family matters, and scandal. The trial, lasting seven days, beginning on 27 March 1899, played to a packed courtroom. It had all of the melodrama that the press and public longed for.

Both *The Washington Post* and the *Gazette* covered every day of the proceedings in tedious detail. On the first day three prominent lawyers appeared representing Virginia Daingerfield and three represented Effie Daingerfield—one of which was her son-in-law—in Judge C. E. Nichol's Circuit Court for the City of Alexandria. Judge Nichol announced he would keep the court in session from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM each day—a promise he had to abandon on occasions when he extended sessions until 10:00 PM or later. At issue was an estate of just \$83,000. A jury of twelve men was seated: F. S. Harper, John P. Robinson, R. L. Monroe, J. A. Marshall, J. S. Chapman, W. H. May, A. D. Brockett, B. Bair, R. L. Field, M. B. Harlow, S. G. Lunt and S. B. Fisher.⁷⁷

Virginia's attorneys planned to show that Eliza was "not a free and capable agent."⁷⁸ She had suffered a paralytic stroke and "violent shocks sufficient to weaken her mind":

The counsel described some of the trying ordeals through which the deceased had passed. He stated that in 1890 a family scandal had occurred which must have been a severe shock to the deceased; that the scandal was the talk of more than two cities; that it was published in the newspapers and had even been a subject of illustration in the yellow journals. The principal actor in this scandal, he said, was the principal beneficiary under the will in question. He then referred to the suicides of the two sons of the deceased, and said that such shocks were enough to unbalance her mind. He further stated that

there had been two previous wills, in which a fair disposition of the property had been made, but that after the death of Henry Daingerfield the other side of the house had taken possession of the testatrix [Eliza] and the last will and testament were the results.

Clearly, it was the intent of Virginia's side to paint her sister-in-law, Effie, as a true villain whose scandalous activities contributed to the deterioration of Eliza's mind and as the person responsible for controlling and manipulating that mind for her own benefit.

Supporting Virginia's argument was her 25-year-old son Henry [III], who stated that before his father's death his grandmother had been fond of his mother and her children:

Later, however, a decided hatred on the part of his grandmother was manifest. The death of witness's father had had a decided influence on his grandmother.

After a ruling from the bench that evidence from the Asbury Park affair was admissible, Henry [III] confirmed that it was a "common matter of talk in the house," and that "Members of the family were ashamed to appear in the streets for some time subsequently." He also described his grandmother's fainting spells. He stated that his Aunt Effie and her family virtually controlled his grandmother. He claimed "they led her around as they would a child," according to the newspaper account.

Perhaps more revealing was Henry [III's] testimony given in cross-examination. It showed that he had been for a limited time employed as an assistant machinist at the Southern Railroad yard earning between 50 cents and 75 cents a day, most of which he turned over to his mother. He was frequently absent from work and he was a user of alcohol. His relationship with his grandmother was that he was constantly seeking money from her. She even allowed him to draw on her account with local grocers who bought produce from the Springfield Farm. One of his frustrations was that when his Aunt Effie and her family were around, it was harder for him to get money from his grandmother.

In fact, testimony given throughout the trial showed that virtually everyone in both families was seeking and receiving money from Eliza. According to her broker, Effie was "gambling" between \$150 and \$300 per week on the stock market. It was implied that Eliza was the source of that money.

Julian T. Burke of Burke and Herbert Bank handled Eliza's financial affairs. As a friend and neighbor he knew the family well. He warned Eliza that with twenty people in the family and seven servants that she had too many servants. But he was given to understand that was no affair of his. He testified that Reverdy lost his personal property over a period of time and that his mother covered many of his expenses. Burke set up a schedule of monthly expenditures that Eliza was not to exceed to prevent her from encroaching on her capital, declaring that her business sense was "about on a par with other ladies."

Burke also testified that Eliza explained to him why she left so much to Reverdy and his family. Because Reverdy had lost everything and had no way of making money, his family would have nothing upon his death; so she wrote a will favoring that side of the family. Henry [II] left his family much better off and, in addition, Virginia had relatives that would continue to look after them.

The lawyers from both sides called friends, relatives, doctors, and employees to the stand to attest to Eliza's mental condition. Several described her as strong willed and mentally alert up to the very end. Others described how she would lose keys, occasionally faint, and probably had "softening of the brain." Some noted that she did not get along with Virginia who was described as having a "wretched temper and was a horrid woman." After Henry [II's] death Eliza no longer sent for produce from the farm, which was now owned by Virginia; nor would she buy produce from grocers that bought from Springfield Farm.

Lengthy depositions were read which were "trying to the spectators" and caused a "thinning out of the audience." Even "the reporters grew drowsy and they and the others compelled to sit it out had all they could do to repress yawning."

But the courtroom also witnessed high melodrama. Sarah "Sally" Daingerfield was Effie's 25-year-old daughter and Eliza's favorite grandchild. She married Bernard Carter, one of Effie's lawyers in the courtroom, in October 1896. Eliza paid for the wedding. Sally testified that before marriage she lived in her grandmother's room and that she and her sister, Eliza, were invited to read the "memoranda" for their grandmother's new will in the spring of 1895. They even recommended grammatical changes, which their grandmother made. Sally never told her mother or father about the new will, and told her husband only after they were married.

According to the opposition the only reason Sally, instead of her mother, was put on the stand was because she was “the best looking of them all.” Her testimony established that Effie probably knew nothing about the new will, but it also gave the opposition the opportunity to claim that Sally was the manipulator.

The melodrama occurred when a later witness was asked by Edmond Burke, one of Virginia’s lawyers: “How many suitors had Miss Daingerfield apart from Mr. Carter?” According to the *Gazette* reporter, the purpose of the question was to establish that her grandmother favored some other candidate for her hand. Perhaps it was Mr. Burke’s intention to show that Sally Daingerfield Carter’s decision to marry Bernard Carter contributed to her grandmother’s anxieties. He describes the scene that followed the question:

A murmur of disapprobation followed among parties to the suit, and the greatest consternation followed when Mrs. Carter [Sally] turned livid and began to swoon. Mrs. Julian T. Burke, who had accompanied some of the ladies concerned in the case to court, arose and, approaching Mr. Edmond Burke, who had propounded the question said, “Mr. Burke, see what you have done!” By this time Mrs. Carter had seemingly gone off in a spasm. All the blood in her body appeared to rush suddenly to her head and it was feared apoplexy had seized her. She fell to the floor unconscious and while lying there numbers of her friends endeavored to restore her. In a few minutes she was raised bodily and taken to the judge’s room and placed in charge of Dr. Klipstein, who happened to be in the court room. A decided lull in the proceedings followed.

Attorney Edmond Burke did not return to the courtroom for a long time that day.

The trial moved slowly to its climax. By Friday afternoon, 31 March, the last witness had been heard and time had come for the lawyers to sum up and the jury to be charged. Again, the *Gazette* reporter described the scene:

Spectators began to arrive at half-past six o’clock, and by the time the court reconvened a dense crowd was present. Every available inch of space was utilized long before the court was called to order. People were standing on benches, sitting upon the backs of each other’s chairs, the windows were full and without the bar a sea of heads was to be seen packed as closely as matches in a box.

Unfortunately, Judge Nichols announced he would charge the jury the next day due to the late hour. That would give him time to review requests from both sides.

The next day, Saturday, 1 April, he read aloud eleven instructions from Effie's attorneys and twenty-four from Virginia's. Then lawyers from each side gave lengthy summaries. The case did not go to the jury until 10:00 PM. At midnight the jury announced that it could not reach a verdict and was discharged until 9:00 AM on Monday, 3 April, with a warning to the jury "to express no opinion on the case and to allow no expressions of opinions in their presence," on threat of fine or imprisonment.

On Monday Judge Nichol, considering the costs of a retrial, sent the jury back to try again. At 10:20 AM they emerged and announced that they still could not reach a verdict. The foreman, M. B. Harlow, stated that they had considered all of the evidence and all of the instructions but they were firmly deadlocked. The judge regretted the situation; but "some jury would have to agree upon a verdict in the matter." At 12:30 PM he cleared the courtroom to give them more space to move around and asked them to try again. At 2:00 PM the court again convened. The foreman again announced that it was still impossible to reach a verdict. Six jurors supported the will—W. H. May, B. Baer, J. P. Robinson, R. L. Field, S. B. Fisher, and A. D. Brockett. Against the will were M. B. Harlow, J. A. Marshall, J. S. Chapman, F. S. Harper, R. L. Monroe and S. G. Lunt. None had changed their minds at any time when considering the evidence. Judge Nichol thanked the jury and discharged them. He announced that he would not call another jury to sit in special session because attorneys for both sides were not available on such short notice. A new trial would be postponed until the next regular session of the court in September.

On 30 October 1899 Alexandrians opened their *Gazettes* to find under the topical headline "The Daingerfield Will Case" the following statement:

In the Circuit Court for the city, before Judge Nicol today, the jury in the case of Daingerfield vs. Daingerfield, by consent of all parties interested, returned a verdict sustaining the will of the Mrs. Eliza R. Daingerfield and a decree was entered dismissing complainants' suit with costs and for defendants. As heretofore stated, the case had been settled out of court by the payment by the heirs of the R. J. Daingerfield of \$15,000 to the heirs of the late Henry Daingerfield. It

is understood that of this amount Mrs. Henry Daingerfield will receive \$11,000, the other \$4,000 going for attorney's fees, &c.

From Rural to Suburban

Within the next five years, Virginia Daingerfield sold small parts of the Springfield Farm property to the Southern Railroad, the final owners of the old Orange and Alexandria tracks, enabling them to double track and straighten the road. Finally, in February 1904 she sold the remaining 494 acres to Charles S. Cochrane of Wheeling, West Virginia, for \$9,714.⁷⁹ That included the house on the north side of the tracks that her husband started to build in 1893. Richard C. Thompson, Special Commissioner appointed by the court in 1894, handled all of these sales because Virginia shared ownership with her underage children whose interests had to be protected by a disinterested party.

Richard C. Thompson was an Alexandria attorney and nephew of John Strode Barbour. He was appointed Special Commissioner to oversee the sale of the dower's one third of Springfield farm in a suit brought by Ellen Daingerfield against the Henry Daingerfield Heirs in the Alexandria Circuit Court in 1898 to force the sale of the property.⁸⁰ He would continue to handle Ellen's legal affairs, eventually live in her home on Capitol Hill—the Sewall House—and inherit \$25,000 upon her death in 1912.⁸¹

The Springfield Farm that Henry Daingerfield created in 1851 was subdivided out of existence. One month after his purchase, Charles Cochrane sold 217 acres, including the house, to William Worth Smith of Fauquier County.⁸² Smith was the father of Howard W. Smith, an Alexandria attorney and future Congressman, who played a part in Virginia Daingerfield's land transactions.⁸³ Cochrane sold the remaining 277 acres on the south side of the tracks to L. C. Corbett of Washington, D. C., in October 1904.⁸⁴

In 1907 the Post Office Department decided to close the Garfield Post Office at Franconia Station on the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad (today the CXS tracks). They then reopened the Springfield Post Office, which was closed in 1868. In keeping with custom they named the new post office "Corbett," after the landowner.⁸⁵ The name also suggests that the post office was in a private home rather than the train station. The Corbett postmaster was John H. Broders who owned land just to the south of Corbett's property.

In February 1909 a new postmistress was appointed. She was Jennie L. Smith, the sister-in-law of William Worth Smith. In the following year the name of the post office was changed back to Springfield. Jennie L. Smith was succeeded by her niece, Eugenia Smith Brookfield, the daughter of William Worth Smith, in March 1919. Mrs. Brookfield served until February 1948.⁸⁶

Eugenia Smith and her husband, John W. Brookfield, finished building the house started by Henry [II] Daingerfield in 1893, the year before he committed suicide. It had remained empty since then. When Mrs. Brookfield's father acquired the property he apparently gave the house to the couple. In 1924 he willed the surrounding 97 acres to his daughter "where she now lives."⁸⁷ They called their home "Bonnie Brough."⁸⁸

It is not known precisely when the original Springfield Station disappeared. A railroad plat dated 1902 shows a small "depot" with a larger "tool house" on the north side of the track and two buildings that could be private homes or one home with a large outbuilding such as a barn on the south side.⁸⁹ United States Post Office Records indicate that the Corbett Post Office created in 1907 was 100 feet south of the Southern Railroad. In 1909 it was changed to 200 feet south of the railroad. In 1918 Postmistress Smith requested that the station, known as Springfield for the past eight years, be moved to 40 feet south of the railroad track and 900 feet east of the "present location," due to her "indisposition." That suggests the post office may have been moved a few months before she retired.

To determine the "present location" one would trace 900 feet west from the station site located on the 1865 plat. That would place the post office on the west side of Backlick Road, approximately where the Springfield Square Apartments now stand. It so happens that Jennie L. Smith owned that land—26 acres acquired in 1907.⁹⁰

The last known photographs of the Springfield Station, made in the late 1940s and early 1950s, show a very modest building, perhaps 30 feet by 15 feet, on the north side of the tracks. It is not the standard design used by the Southern Railroad at other stations along the line, which suggests that it may have been used primarily as a mail drop and post office with an occasional passenger pick up.

A photograph made in 1948 by Richard Burnett, then of Springfield, and published in the *Fairfax Journal* shows the station on the north side of the tracks and a home directly opposite on the south side.⁹¹ The house was probably built by Timothy Murphy on the

one-half acre he acquired from the Daingerfield heirs in 1866. The house was, no doubt, constructed on the site of the original station. It is probable that the post office was relocated there from Jennie Smith's house in 1918 because of her disability and anticipated retirement. In a published interview, Mrs. Brookfield recalled:

The first postoffice [*sic*] was in the basement of the Murphy house right beside the track. Old man Murphy was the section boss.⁹²

Of course, Mrs. Brookfield is not correct about the house being the first post office, but she does remember a house beside the track being used as a post office.

The post office was probably moved to the station house on the north side of the tracks sometime after Mrs. Brookfield became post-mistress in 1919. That would put it closer to her home, the old Daingerfield house. That is where Mary Hapholdt reported to work in 1952 when she started to work for the Springfield Post Office, one year before it left that location forever.⁹³

The house and property on the south side of the track passed from Timothy Murphy to his wife Elizabeth upon his death. Elizabeth willed it to her daughter Nellie in 1912.⁹⁴ Nellie Murphy (who was living in Washington, D. C.) sold it to Firman R. Horner, also of Washington, D. C., in May 1929.⁹⁵ Horner had already acquired the surrounding 218 acres in 1913.⁹⁶ Horner left all of his property in trust upon his death in 1937 to be sold for the benefit of his son and daughter.⁹⁷ Vernon M. Lynch purchased the Springfield property along the Southern Railroad tracks in June 1941.⁹⁸

Vernon Lynch was the first of a number of land speculators who specialized in buying up small properties that could be consolidated in various ways to be resold as lots to individuals or as parcels to developers. He was a pig farmer living in Annandale when he began acquiring land in the 1930s. When the corridor for the newly proposed Shirley Highway (Route 395) was identified, Lynch bought up land on both sides of the right-of-way, which cut through the middle of Henry Daingerfield's Springfield Farm.⁹⁹ Lynch created the first post-war subdivision, Springvale, in 1947 on land just south of Old Keene Mill Road—not part of the original Springfield Farm.¹⁰⁰ It consisted of custom-built homes.

Another developer attracted to the Springfield area was Edward R. Carr, a Washington, D. C., builder. Carr purchased 3,600 acres in



Figure 10. This view of the last Springfield Station was made in 1948 by Richard Burnett and published in the Fairfax Journal on 27 April 1992. It shows a house on the south side of the tracks, which was probably the Murphy house that functioned as the Post Office for a short time in 1918. The house stood where the first Springfield Station was located. Photograph provided courtesy of Richard Burnett

1947. When Shirley Highway opened to Springfield on Labor Day 1949, Lynch, Carr, and others were ready. The demand for housing by Federal government employees and returning World War II veterans made the empty farmland of Springfield attractive and easy to reach. The availability of home mortgage insurance through programs offered by the Federal Housing Authority made housing affordable.

The earliest mass-produced tract housing in the Springfield area was built on Springfield Farm south of the Southern Railroad—Lynbrook and Yates Village—in the decade between 1950 and 1960. Yates Village offered the buyer three models from which to choose. Crestwood, built on Fitzhugh land to the west of Backlick Road once owned by Henry and Virginia Daingerfield, offered just one model mass-produced using assembly line techniques. Bernard Steinberg and Carl Hengen built 1,200 homes in four years by hiring carpenters who performed only one task over and over. For example, one crew would frame houses, followed by a two or three man crew that hung sheetrock, followed by a crew that installed floors, followed by a crew that hung doors, and so forth.¹⁰¹

A suburban community rapidly grew where none had stood before 1940. According to the *Gazette* the population in Springfield in 1940 was about 200. In 1958 it was about 15,600 living in approximately 4,000 homes.¹⁰² This meant new roads, schools, churches, commercial shopping centers, and even a community newspaper—*The Springfield Independent*—also existed where none had been before.

The first issue of the *Independent*, dated 6 February 1953, announced that a new Springfield Post Office had opened on 2 February. The little train depot where Mary Hapholdt had reported to work could no longer handle the job; and, besides, the mail was no longer dependent on the train. It was now delivered by truck right down Shirley Highway. The post office moved to the new Lynch-built Springfield Shopping Center at Backlick and Old Keene Mill Roads (today part of the Tower Shopping Center) where, according to Mrs. Hapholdt, it floated from store to store over a period of time.

Clearly, a new permanent location had to be found. The final location of the Springfield Post Office opened in July 1958 at the new Brookfield Plaza along Backlick Road south of the intersection with Old Keene Mill Road.¹⁰³ When Mrs. Brookfield, after whom the plaza was named, was postmistress in 1919 her Springfield Post

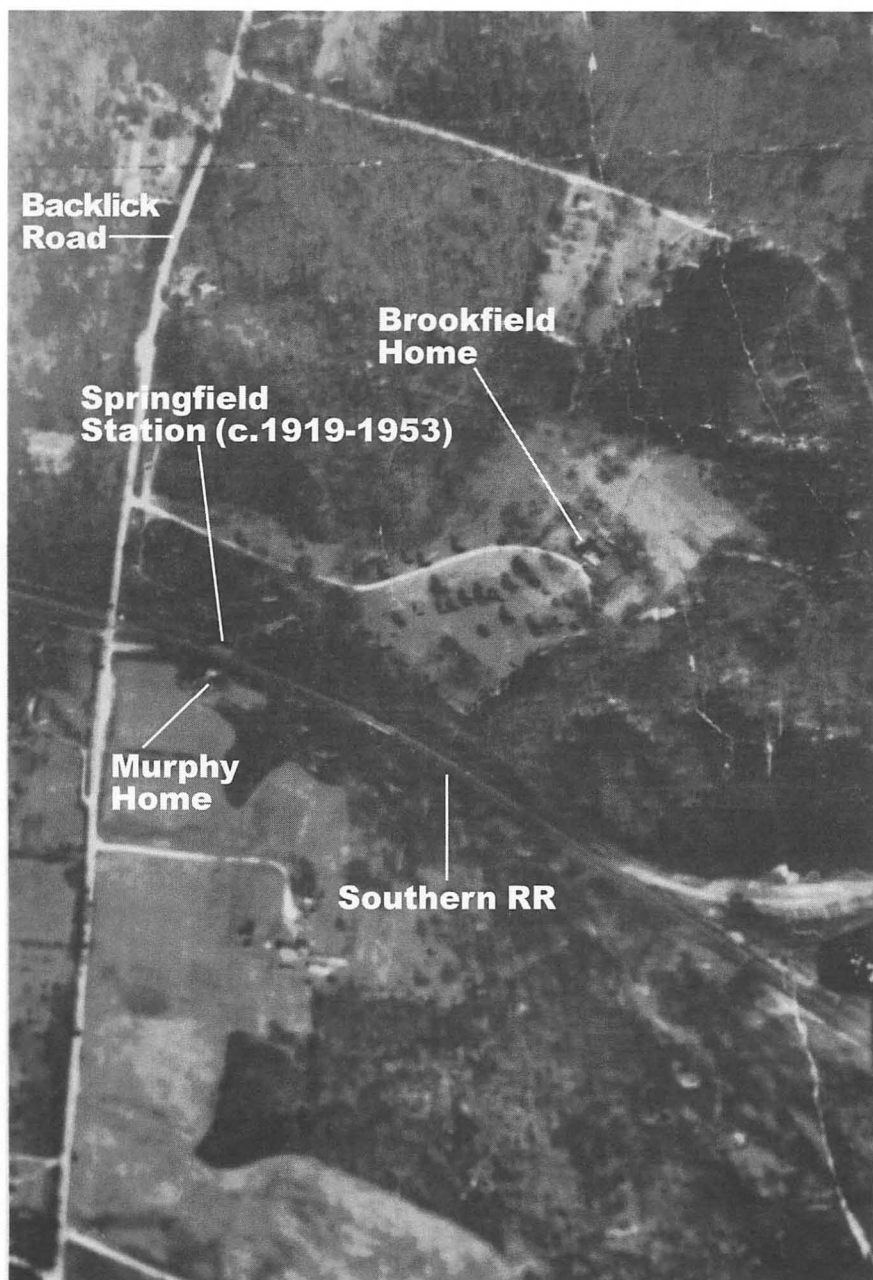


Figure 11. This 1949 aerial photograph shows Springfield to still be rural. Shirley Highway, completed that year, will open this area up to rapid development. Photograph courtesy of Lake Accotink Park, Fairfax County Park Authority; labeling done by author

Office serviced about 40 families.¹⁰⁴ In 1958 the new Springfield Post Office serviced approximately 30,000 addresses.¹⁰⁵

Springfield is the result of one hundred years of land speculation, ambitious energy and changing technology in transportation and building. Henry Daingerfield, entrepreneur that he was, would probably be very pleased with what happened to his land. Certainly he would have been pleased to know that he left a legacy in the name “Springfield”—first attached to a remote, rural farm, then to a railroad station, then to a post office and finally to a thriving, dynamic suburban community.

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8. See the map that accompanies Mitchell, cited above.
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12. Courtland Davis, *Ravensworth*, The Historical Society of Fairfax County, Inc. Yearbook, Vol. 3, 1954, 27.
13. Fairfax County Deed Book D3:411.
14. Fairfax County Deed Book P3:279-282.
15. *Ibid.* How the acreage on this tract of land increased from 800 when Fitzhugh transferred it to Craik to 920 when Daingerfield bought it from Israel Thompson is not clear. Daingerfield's surveyor, James Thrift, noted on the survey that "The boundaries of the above mentioned Tract of Land, are not given in any of the deeds, nor was I able to procure them from Source, the Lines L.A.D. are undisputed, the other lines binding on Mrs. Fitzhugh were pointed out by Mr. Dodson a Tenant, as the Lines of the Craik Tract, and appeared to correspond with the old fences, and the occupancy of the present Tenants, and other information."
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30. Ethelyn Cox, *Historic Alexandria, Virginia: Street By Street*, Alexandria, Virginia: Historic Alexandria Foundation, 1976, 132.
31. *Alexandria Gazette*, 30 January 1837, 3.
32. Tombstone, His Lordship's Kindness, family cemetery, Prince Georges County, Maryland. Another tombstone in the family cemetery inscribed "Henry D., son of Henry & Susan B. Daingerfield, Dec. 27, 1837-July 23, 1839" suggests that Susan and Henry had a third child. The problem is that Henry D.'s date of birth is twelve months to the day after his mother's death. The only way to resolve the problem is to recognize that the inscribed month of birth was a mistake. Henry D. was probably born on January 27, 1837, the day his mother died—and her death may have been related to his birth.
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38. Dumas, Malone, Editor, *Dictionary of American Biography*, New York, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1932-1933, Vol. V, 112; Lorenzo Lewis Daingerfield (8 April 1855-12 September 1861) is buried at Poplar Hill.
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41. Joyce E. Wilkinson, *The Early Orange and Alexandria Railroad, 1849-1854*, *Pioneer America*, Falls Church, Virginia: The Pioneer America Society, July 1969, 46-47.
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43. Wilkinson, 50.
44. Sprouse, *Fairfax County In 1860*, 459.
45. John Dean & John Bennett v. Daingerfield Heirs, Chancery Final File (CFF) #99y (1866), Fairfax County Circuit Court Archives; Fairfax County Deed Book G4: 207.
46. Timothy Murphy v. Daingerfield Heirs, CFF #99z (1866); Fairfax County Deed Book G4: 209.
47. James G. Barber, *Alexandria In The Civil War*, Lynchburg, Virginia: H.E. Howard, Inc, 1988, 14.
48. *The War Of The Rebellion: A Compilation Of The Official Records Of The Union And Confederate Armies*, Series 1, Vol. LI, Part II, Confederate Correspondence, Washington, D. C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1897, 105.
49. *Ibid.*, 237.
50. *Evening Star*, 29 December 1862, "The Very Last Rebel Raid;" Henry B. McClellan, *I Rode With J.E.B. Stuart: The Life And Campaigns Of Major General J.E.B. Stuart*, Bloomington: De Capo Press, 1994, 201-202.
51. *Alexandria Gazette*, 3 August 1863.
52. *Alexandria Gazette*, 11 August 1863.
53. *Alexandria Gazette*, 13 August 1863.
54. Gilbert C. Moore, *Civil War Letters Of Lt. Cornelius L. Moore, 1861-1864, Co. I, 57th NY Vols*, Chattanooga, Tennessee: Published by Gilbert C. Moore, Jr., 1989.
55. Timothy Murphy v. Daingerfield Heirs CFF #99z (1866).
56. Herman Haupt, *Reminiscences of General Herman Haupt*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Wright & Joys, 1901, 133-134.
57. National Archives, *Confederate Papers Relating To Citizens Or Business Firms*, Microfilm M346, Roll 221.
58. Timothy Murphy v. Daingerfield Heirs; Fairfax County Deed Book G4: 209.
59. Fairfax County Circuit Court Minute Books, 1863-1867, 435.
60. National Archives, *Register of U.S. Post Offices and Post Masters In Fairfax County, Virginia, 1848-1928*, Microfilm M 841, Roll 131.

61. Fairfax County Deed Book X5: 486-491.
62. Land Records of Alexandria County A4: 131.
63. Allen Johnson, Ed., *Dictionary Of American Biography*, Vol. I, New York, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1946-1958, 592-593.
64. Susan Daingerfield Barbour died on 6 Feb 1886 as a result of a fall in her home. John Strode Barbour continued to live at the Sewall House until his death on 14 May 1892. After his death the Sewall House became the home of Ellen Daingerfield.
65. Virginia's father, Phillip Barton Key (1814-1854), should not be confused with her second cousin, Phillip Barton Key (1818-1859), who was shot in Lafayette Park by Daniel Sickles in 1859 as a result of a notorious love triangle. See *The Washington Post*, "In The Beginning: Washington's First Century," 17 July 2000, A1.
66. Effie Gwynn Bowie, *Across The Years In Prince George's County*, Richmond, Virginia: Garrett & Massie, 1947, 588.
67. *The Washington Post*, "It May Cause A Duel," 31 August 1890.
68. Fairfax County Deed Books S4: 336, T4: 474, A5: 2, and F5: 411.
69. Fairfax County Deed Books O5: 362, O5: 273, and G5: 587.
70. Fairfax County Deed Book G5: 487.
71. *The Fairfax Herald*, 27 October 1893, 3.
72. *Alexandria Gazette*, "Local Matters," 21 August 1894.
73. *Ibid.*
74. *Alexandria Gazette*, "Local Matters," 17 June 1896.
75. *Ibid.*
76. *Alexandria Gazette*, "Local Matters," 27 March 1899.
77. *Ibid.*
78. All quoted material about the trial, unless otherwise stated, were the words of an unnamed reporter in a series of articles appearing in sequential issues of the *Alexandria Gazette* from 27 March 1899 through 3 April 1899.
79. Fairfax County Deed Book P6: 547; CFF #120N (1911).
80. Fairfax County Deed Book U6: 385.
81. Bowie, 589-591.
82. Fairfax County Deed Book Q6: 356.
83. As chairman of the House of Representatives Rules Committee "Judge" Smith became famous for resisting social reform and championing state's rights, free enterprise, and small balanced budgets. For a full discussion of the life and career of Howard W. Smith see Bruce J. Dierenfield, *Keeper Of The Rules: Congressman Howard W. Smith Of Virginia*, Charlottesville, Virginia: University Press Of Virginia, 1987.
84. Fairfax County Deed Book R6: 111.
85. National Archives, Post Office Records. See also the Appendix following this article.
86. *Ibid.*

87. Fairfax County Will Book 10-311 (1924).
88. *The Fairfax Free Press*, "She Remembers Springfield In '04," 16 February 1967.
89. Fairfax County Deed Book J6: 10-11.
90. Fairfax County Deed Book X6: 592.
91. *The Fairfax Journal*, 27 April 1992, A4.
92. *Fairfax Free Press*, 16 February 1967, 14.
93. Telephone interview with Mary Hapholdt, date not recorded.
94. Fairfax County Will Book 5: 46.
95. Fairfax County Deed Book L10: 593.
96. Fairfax County Deed Book P7:525.
97. Fairfax County Will Book 20: 311.
98. Fairfax County Deed Book X14: 47.
99. Shelley Smith Mastran, *The Evolution Of Suburban Nucleations: Land Investment Activity In Fairfax County, Virginia, 1958-1977*, unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Maryland, 1988, MS in the Virginia Room of The Fairfax City Regional Library.
100. Fairfax County Deed Book 614: 292.
101. *Fairfax Sun Echo*, Springfield 10th Anniversary Edition, 8 February 1962; Telephone interview with Sandra Rathbun whose father, Lee Key, was a carpenter employed by Steinberg and Hengen, 2 June 2003.
102. *Alexandria Gazette*, 21 July 1958.
103. *Alexandria Gazette*, 23 July 1958.
104. Post Office Records, National Archives.
105. *Alexandria Gazette*, 21 July 1958.

Appendix:

Springfield-Franconia Post Offices, Fairfax County, Virginia, 1866-1953

From Records of the Post Office Department, National Archives

NAME	LOCATION	DATE ESTABLISHED DATE DISCONTINUED
Springfield	Springfield RR Depot	28 August 1866 9 September 1868
Moor	Oak Grove	31 December 1877
Garfield	Franconia	27 September 1881
Garfield		
Garfield		
Garfield	100 ft. east of A & F RR	October 1889
Garfield		
Garfield	1¼ mi. west of Franconia Station (Grehan home)	March 1890
Garfield		
Garfield	1 mi. west of Franconia Station (Oak Grove)	5 January 1894
Garfield		
Garfield	160 ft. east of track at Franconia Station	5 March 1898 28 February 1907
Corbett	100 ft. south of Southern RR	18 November 1907
Corbett		
Corbett	200 ft. south of Southern RR [Possibly Smith home]	
Springfield	[Probably Smith home]	27 June 1910
Springfield	40 ft. south of Southern RR track, 900 ft. east of "present location" [Murphy home?]	17 October 1918
Springfield	[Probably post office on north side of the track]	
Springfield		
Springfield		
Springfield	Springfield Shopping Center	

POSTMASTER <i>DATE APPOINTED</i>	HOUSEHOLDS SERVED	U. S. PRESIDENT
Timothy Murphy		Johnson (D)
William G. Moore	50	Hayes (R)
Cornelius Cain	100	Garfield (R) 1881 Arthur (R) 1881-1885
William G. Moore <i>1 May 1885</i>		Cleveland (D)
Silas Devers <i>27 July 1889</i>		Harrison (R)
Silas Devers		Harrison (R)
Hannie B. Grehan <i>25 November 1889</i>		Harrison (R)
Hannie B. Grehan	500	
William G. Moore <i>25 November 1893</i>		Cleveland (D)
William G. Moore		
Phoebe A. Gillingham <i>8 January 1898</i>		McKinley (R)
Phoebe A. Gillingham		
John H. Broders	200	Roosevelt (R)
Jennie L. Smith <i>2 February 1909</i>		Roosevelt (R)
Jennie L. Smith		Taft (R)
Jennie L. Smith	40	Wilson (D)
Eugenia S. Brookfield <i>18 March 1919</i>		Wilson (D)
Avis Boothe <i>6 May 1949</i>		Truman (D)
Joseph B. Trice <i>1 July 1950</i>		Truman (D)
Roy T. Bowman <i>5 August 1953</i>		Eisenhower (R)

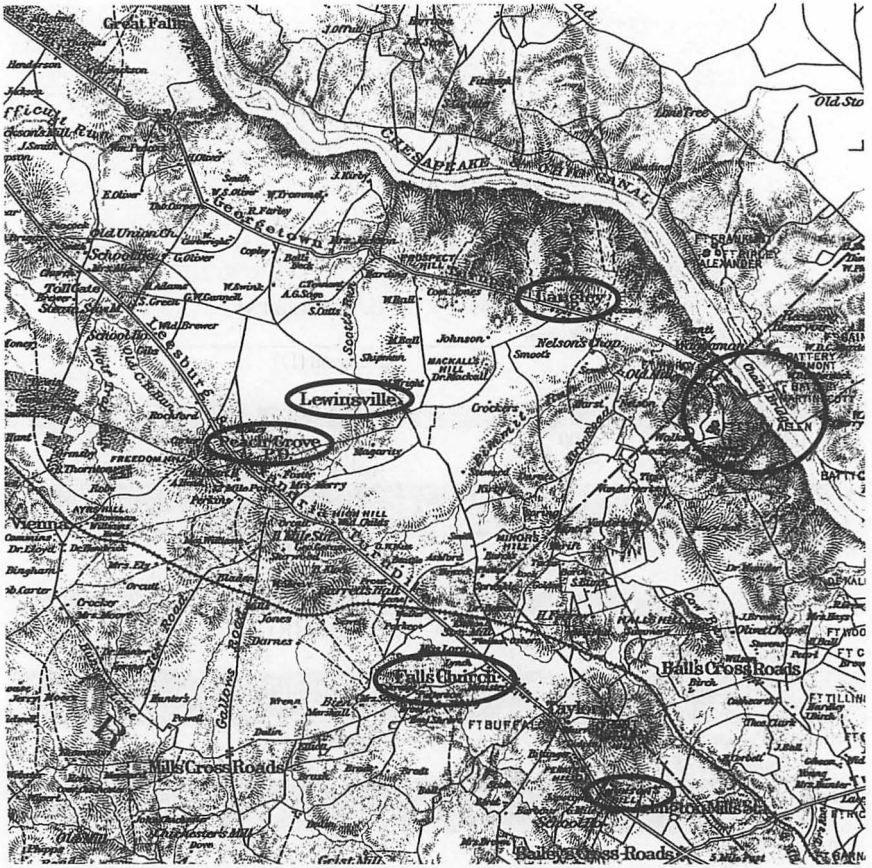


Figure 1. An enlarged portion of "The McDowell Map" showing Lewinsville at the center, with Langley to the right. Clockwise from Langley are: Fort Marcy, the Chain Bridge, Fort Ethan Allen, the (then) Fairfax County-Alexandria County line, Munson's Hill and Falls Church, Vienna, and Peach Grove (now Tyson's Corner). Note the hachures representing sloping and elevated ground. Camp Advance, a tenting area only, is not shown. Surveys for Military Defenses: Map of Northeastern Virginia and Vicinity, 1862, Plate 1, Sheet 1.

A Civil War Action at Lewinsville, Virginia, 11 September 1861

By
Edgar R. Hon

Edgar R. Hon is a native of Washington, D. C. who has lived in McLean since 1975. His previous article titled "The Centreville Leather Tannery" was published in Yearbook Vol. 26. He worked as a cartographer for the U. S. Geological Survey in Reston for 28 years. Retired now, he enjoys writing short fiction for Storyteller magazine and historical articles for the Scott County, Arkansas, Historical and Genealogical Society. Ed felt the skirmish at Lewinsville needed to be told in narrative form for others to learn about what took place there during the Civil War.

On 11 September 1861, there occurred a little-known action of the American Civil War at a village called Lewinsville, in Virginia, which involved units of the Union and Confederate armies. Lewinsville's origin can be traced to 1798 when it was incorporated as the "Town of Turberville" on 20 acres of a 400-acre tract of land owned by the Turberville family, early settlers there. By mid-century, the name of the village changed to Lewinsville seemingly to commemorate Troilus Lewin Turberville, a dissolute and long-deceased member of the family.¹

The locality is about 9 miles west of the center of Washington, D. C., in the northeastern part of Fairfax County. Today, the village name is commemorated only by its use identifying a Presbyterian church, a retirement residence, a park and a road. At what was its center, today's Chain Bridge Road meets Lewinsville Road and Great Falls Street. Magarity Road (called the "New cut road to Vienna" in 1861) is nearby. The towns of Falls Church and Vienna are each 4 miles distant. And the localities of McLean and Langley are just to the northeast.

The present-day appearance of the former village—townhouses, single-family homes, paved roads, brick churches, and the playing fields of Lewinsville Park—is in marked contrast to the Lewinsville of 1861. It was very rural then: fields of corn, scattered farm buildings, patches of woodland here and there. A few buildings were at

the crossroads: a wood frame church, a store, a post office, and some houses. A news journal of the period noted (perhaps unfairly) that a sketch by their artist indicated that Lewinsville was "... a miserable, broken-down village, very Virginian in aspect."²

Little is known about how the inhabitants of Lewinsville fared on 11 September 1861. But surely all well understood by late afternoon that their home places stood in the path of war. By the end of the day, however, perceptive villagers may have understood that they had had less to fear from the hordes of gunners all around than from a certain team of non-combatants handling instruments of another kind.

The action on 11 September—a reconnaissance in force by Union Army soldiers manning the outward defenses of the city of Washington and the firefight that followed—took place within the day. There is little notice of it in histories of the Civil War—it wasn't so important or crucial to the war's outcome. No physical evidence exists in the form of trenches or fortifications. There are no cannons to touch or plaques to read. What does survive, though, are the written reports of the commanders who were there that day. And, for the history-minded walker on a leafless winter day, certain viewpoints to visit and imagine what the soldiers saw there 142 years ago.

About 7:30 AM that Wednesday morning, Colonel Isaac Ingalls Stevens of the United States Army's 79th New York Infantry regiment rode out of Camp Advance, then near the present historic site of Fort Marcy along the Potomac River. Colonel Stevens was in command of a force of about 1,800 men. They proceeded towards Lewinsville by way of the community of Langley and what today is known as Chain Bridge Road. His orders, issued by Brigadier General William F. Smith, Headquarters, Camp Advance, were to:

Cover and protect a reconnaissance of the village of Lewinsville and vicinity, to determine all the facts that would be required for its permanent occupation and defense.³

The orders placed Colonel Stevens under the "strictest injunction not to bring on a general engagement under any circumstances."⁴

Marching with him were: the 79th New York Infantry (his own regiment); four companies of the 65th New York; five companies of the 19th Indiana; two companies of the 2nd Vermont and several of the 3rd Vermont; four gun sections of the 5th U. S. Artillery; and two detach-

ments of cavalry, both regulars and volunteers.⁵ In the midst of this military expedition, and very central to its goal, was a small field mapping team led by Lieutenant Orlando M. Poe, of the army's Topographical Engineers.

The force approached Lewinsville without resistance and entered it about 10:00 AM. Colonel Stevens must have thought about many things during the march. The burden of command and the responsibility for the mission's fate, surely. And, too, about his son, Hazard, a volunteer in the 79th New York. The younger Stevens had carried out his duties in an early morning ambush—an ambush that had stopped a Confederate cavalry rush to prevent a “break-up or capture” strike at their Lewinsville picket station on the day before.⁶

And about the 79th New York itself: its worth and effectiveness. And the trouble a month ago. Cut up and scattered at Manassas, Virginia, its commander dead, the remainders were collected at Camp Ewen, then near today's Meridian Hill in Washington, D. C. Increasingly dissatisfied about promises to return the militia unit home to New York to recuperate and recruit, the soldiers became disorderly and rebellious. Four days after Stevens' arrival on 10 August 1861 to take command, mutiny broke out. His call for help was quickly met. Very soon the regiment was surrounded by Union cannon loaded with grapeshot. By an order of Major General George B. McClellan, the flags of the unit were taken away.⁷

For some, mutiny meant prison. A few spent time in the Dry Tortugas, a lonely island group far from the Florida coast. Colonel Stevens had but a few short weeks to rebuild the 79th New York into some semblance of an army unit. In late August, he led them through the streets of Washington to another camp, this one near a river bridge leading to northern Virginia. By his orders, and in token of the disgrace and loss of colors, the regimental drummer played the “dead march.”⁸

To protect the reconnaissance, Colonel Stevens organized the escorting force into a defensive perimeter. Artillery—12-pounder guns capable of firing a variety of projectiles—was placed in commanding positions. Infantry from the regiments gave support as reserves and skirmishers. One gun was positioned in, or close to, what is now Great Falls Street, and which covered the road approach from Falls Church. Two others were placed on high points of ground around the present-day intersection of Dolley Madison Boulevard with Lewinsville Road, and Chain Bridge Road with the Washington-Dulles



Figure 2. Westgate Park and Magarity Road behind Westgate Elementary School. The author's conjectured stretch of Stevens' skirmish line, through Jonathan Magarity's upper fields. Area in view of artillery at Lewinsville. Scott's Run is at the dark tree line, with Tyson's Corner at the center skyline. Photograph taken October 2003 by Edgar R. Hon

Access Road.⁹ A fourth gun was placed in reserve at the crossroads. The 65th and 79th regiments, halted about one-third of a mile from the village, provided pickets and skirmishers from north to southeast.

While Colonel Stevens was making his dispositions, Lieutenant Poe's mapping crew was setting up its drawing table, compass, and transit at the crossroad, a good starting point from which they could see most of the village. Though conducting a rapid field survey (the work would end four hours later), the mapmakers would compile on paper all the things the planners would need to make a decision whether to fortify the place or not. They noted houses, places of business, names of owners, water supply sources (springs and streams), public and long farm roads, areas of woodland (for timber), and meadow and cultivated land (hay for horses, cornfields, and orchards). Artful application of hachure strokes depicted elevated and sloping ground. By traversing out and around for one-half mile or so, the surveyors could have captured all the detail needed.

Watchers nearby—hidden, silent, and armed—noted everything they could: placement of the Union's men and artillery, their numbers, and

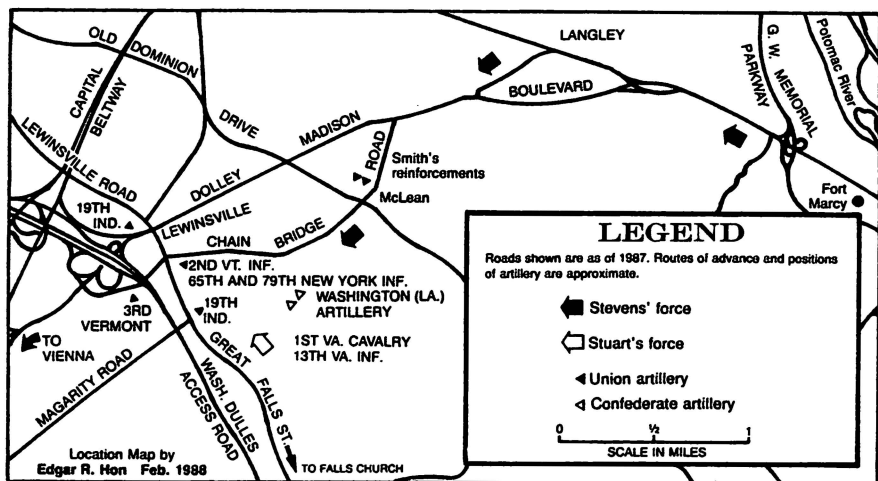


Figure 3. The author's map showing modern day features and placements of units based on Colonel Stevens' map, and on reports by Union and Confederate commanders following the action on 11 September 1861.

the settle-down-and-wait attitude of the escorting force. An assessment was made and handed to a horseman who turned and quickly rode away toward a small Confederate camp on a hill called Munson's, near Falls Church.

There, about noon, Colonel James E. B. (Jeb) Stuart, Commanding Officer, 1st Virginia Cavalry, quickly organized a small strike force and hurried towards Lewinsville. With him were 305 men of the 13th Virginia Volunteers, one section of the Washington Artillery (Louisianans), and a detachment of the 1st Virginia Cavalry.¹⁰ On arrival nearby, Colonel Stuart hid his small force in wooded positions for a possible surprise attack. And they, too, settled down to watch, wait, and plan.

About 2:00 PM, when the survey was finished, Colonel Stevens ordered a bugler to sound the notes of recall. Soon, as pickets, skirmishers, companies, horses and cannon, and stragglers filtered in towards the crossroad, officers began their tasks of forming up an orderly military column for withdrawal.

It was now that the Confederates struck! Colonel Stuart grabbed the opportunity to slam the giant—during those few and elusive moments when his enemy was reassembling in the field and trying to line up in formation in flank order¹¹ on a narrow road. In the near-confusion of assembly, the enemy appeared to be vulnerable and almost

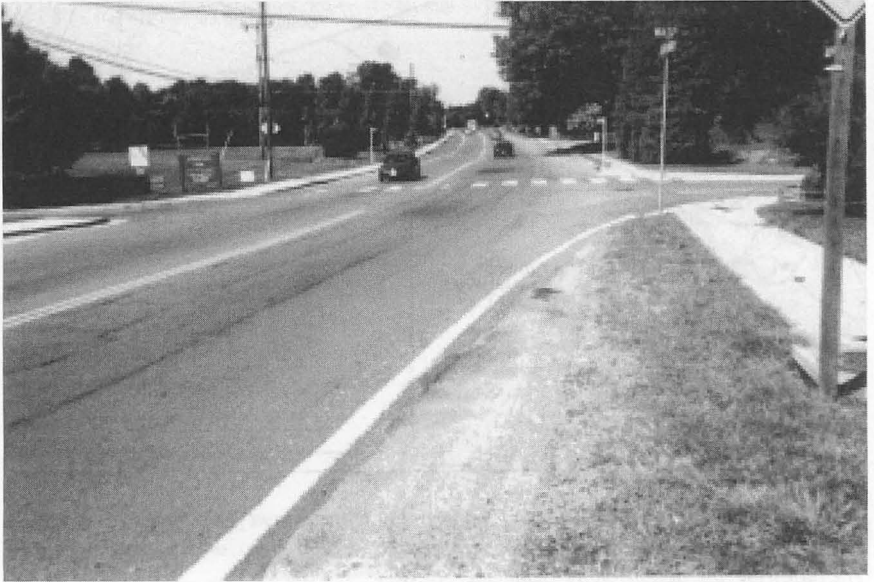


Figure 4. "The stem of the funnel" on Chain Bridge Road in the vicinity of Wasp Lane. Route of Stevens' approach to, and withdrawal from, the village of Lewinsville. View looks west toward crossroad and Presbyterian Church. Stuart and Rosser's C. S. A. forces were on high ground off left—now Lewinsville Park. Rosser reported: "The road here was . . . thick with fragments of shell, and strewn with canteens, haversacks, and a few muskets of the enemy." Photograph taken October 2003 by Edgar R. Hon

helpless to defend itself. His infantrymen were let go first. Approaching from the southeast, they left their cover of woods and fields—first crouch-walking, then dog-trotting—and headed for the village crossroad, stopping only to aim and shoot at Union soldiers withdrawing to their units forming up.

Meanwhile, on a rise of ground which is a topographic feature still in the Lewinsville Park around the old Gilbert House, the Louisianans pulled two cannons from behind a cornfield. They began shooting broadsides into and over the Union column that was now beginning to quick-march back to its camp. Bullets and rounds of bursting shells had their effect: men, out of fear and instinct, cringed, flattened to the ground, or sprang for cover behind roadside trees and fences.¹²

Colonel Stevens, after ordering his artillery to cover the column both in rear and well in advance and to return the shelling, considered his options: defend, attack, or continue. He chose the latter. The long

thin line of Union soldiers hurried on until met by Brigadier General Smith and heavy-artillery reinforcements. From Camp Advance, General Smith had heard the familiar sounds of cannon fire and rode out only to find Stevens' command withdrawing in good order. He then ordered 10- and 32-pounder guns to high points in the vicinity of what is now the community of McLean. They were to fire in support at distant Confederate positions, thus protecting the column as it continued safely to camp by way of roads and fields. There, about 5:30 PM, the column was met by Major General George B. McClellan and congratulated.

Colonel Stuart's group, under incoming shellfire, watched the column withdraw—parts of it briefly stopping, in leap-frog fashion, to park its cannons in new positions to shoot back. The Confederate artillery officer, Captain Thomas L. Rosser, in the wake of the withdrawal, rode down to the roadway and noted the equipment and casualties left behind.¹³ Afterward, Colonel Stuart signaled his men to leave the field. After reestablishing a picket line through Lewinsville, they returned to Munson's Hill.

Reports prepared just after the action indicate that Union losses were 2 killed, 13 wounded, and 3 captured. For the Confederate side, Colonel Stuart notes only that "Our loss was not a scratch to man or horse."¹⁴ The reports do suggest, however, that in the former case casualties and losses may have been slightly higher, and in the latter, inaccurate.¹⁵ That casualties and losses were not higher, or made more noticeable, partly be attributed to deficient artillery ammunition. Many fuses either did not burn as cut or did not burn at all. Both sides reported such problems.¹⁶

As 11 September 1861 drew to a close, soldiers returned to tents and blankets on the ground. The veterans were probably quieter than the brash, newer recruits, whose bragging and nervous chatter were borne of the day's excitement. There was a stacking of arms; remarks about absent comrades; coffee; a meal perhaps; letters; tobacco; then tiredness. For the injured there were the continued efforts of surgeons and nurses, then bandages and personal prayers. For the commanders of units, there was a time—while memory was still fresh—to remember, and to set down formally on paper their account of what happened. Others wrote to commend, or to recommend. The annals—the Official Military Records—contain 19 reports about the events of that day. There may be others.

Colonel Stevens noted in his report:

It [Lewinsville] has great natural advantages, is easily defensible, will require but a small amount of ordnance, and should be permanently occupied without delay.¹⁷

It was never to be permanently occupied by either side. Although the village had been, and would be in the future, the scene of patrols, raids, picket postings, stabling (the wood frame church), and minor skirmishes during the Civil War, Confederate interest in the northern Virginia area eventually waned as the tide of war ebbed southward.

Three days after the Lewinsville action, General McClellan wrote to General Smith:

The colors of the New York Seventy Ninth will be sent to you tomorrow. Please return them to the regiment, with the remark that they have shown by their conduct in the reconnaissance of the 11th instant that they are worthy to carry the banner into action . . .¹⁸

As for Colonel Stuart, General Joseph E. Johnston, Confederate States Army, wrote in a 14 September report to Richmond:

Herewith I enclose two reports (of Brigadier General Longstreet and of Colonel Stuart) of the affair of Lewinsville. I am much gratified at having this opportunity of putting before the Department of War and the President this new instance of the boldness and skill of Colonel Stuart and the courage and efficiency of our troops. Connected with this communication and these reports is a recommendation from General Longstreet, General Beauregard, and myself for forming a cavalry brigade and putting Colonel Stuart at its head.¹⁹

Within two weeks of this, Colonel Jeb Stuart was promoted to Brigadier General.

Another report, dated 12 September, from General Johnston to a fellow officer reveals a bit more:

A prisoner said that the redoubtable McC. was present. If so, I shall never forgive Stuart for not securing him.²⁰

It was, of course, a compliment about the Colonel—the delighted Johnston imagining Stuart's small band of Confederates capturing the

commander of the Union's Army of the Potomac, Major General George B. McClellan.

Epilogue

If Lieutenant Elliott and his pickets of the 79th New York did not tarry long to admire the setting of John Gilbert's house, perhaps it was because the murderous mob in gray coming up the slope to meet them had little interest in shady lawns.²¹ The house survived the war, but the setting's fate was sealed when General Smith's army came again, this time to camp on the land until spring.²² When his officers appealed for wood for winter fires and a visible house to range their big-bore guns nearby, they were told to chop Gilbert's trees—shade, fruit, and all the rest.²³

In time, the scars of war healed. The land was quiet again, and the decades ahead were almost drowsy, little of importance taking place. Agriculture was king; farming the principal occupation. But the land on and around Gilbert's place did change—changed hands, often acreage by the hundreds at first, by the tens after the turn of the century, and much later, when development came, square footage was of concern.²⁴ The surnames of the buyers and sellers were almost all of English and Scots-Irish origin: mid-1800s here found the Shipmans, Carpenters, Magaritys (and McGaritys). Later there was Butler, Hodgen, Heald, and Davidson. The Hamels came still later; their estate eventually becoming the 38-acre Lewinsville Park.

Sounds eventually came to the park. The first, a distant echo: an aging, graying officer of the 65th New York Infantry regaling the new recruits at Camp Alger, at Merrifield, with stories of the regiment at a little village in another war long ago.²⁵ His year was 1898; war with Spain. Other sounds more recent: *thwacks* of tennis racquets countering wicked serves. The loud cheers of Brazilians as a favorite booted a checkered ball through a pair of uprights. And, finally, if the senior Mrs. Chan, after putting aside her townhouse chores to tend her tomato vines in the park's leased but loamy garden plots, turned up a small, leaden object of distinctive shape, she could be forgiven for pitching it into the weeds. For the soil was for growing, living things, and not to hold the blood of those who fell among the harvest corn so many Septembers past.

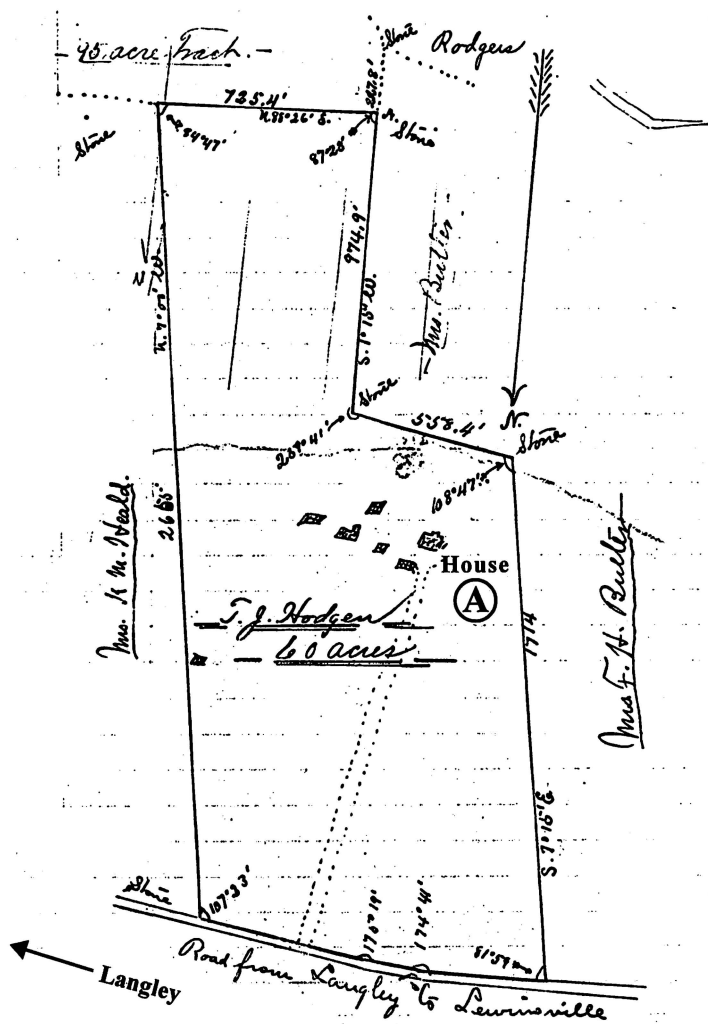


Figure 5. A plat of the Thomas Hodgen property made by surveyor Joseph Berry, December 1901 (FCDB 16:529). Mr. Berry's scale is 1:300 (1 inch equals 300 feet). The double-dash symbol indicates the driveway from the (modern day) Chain Bridge Road to the Hodgen House (labeled A). The John Gilbert House around which Captain Thomas Rosser, CSA, parked his artillery section, stood on or near this site. The adjoining portion of Fannie Butler's property is included on this plat, and in greater detail on page 53.

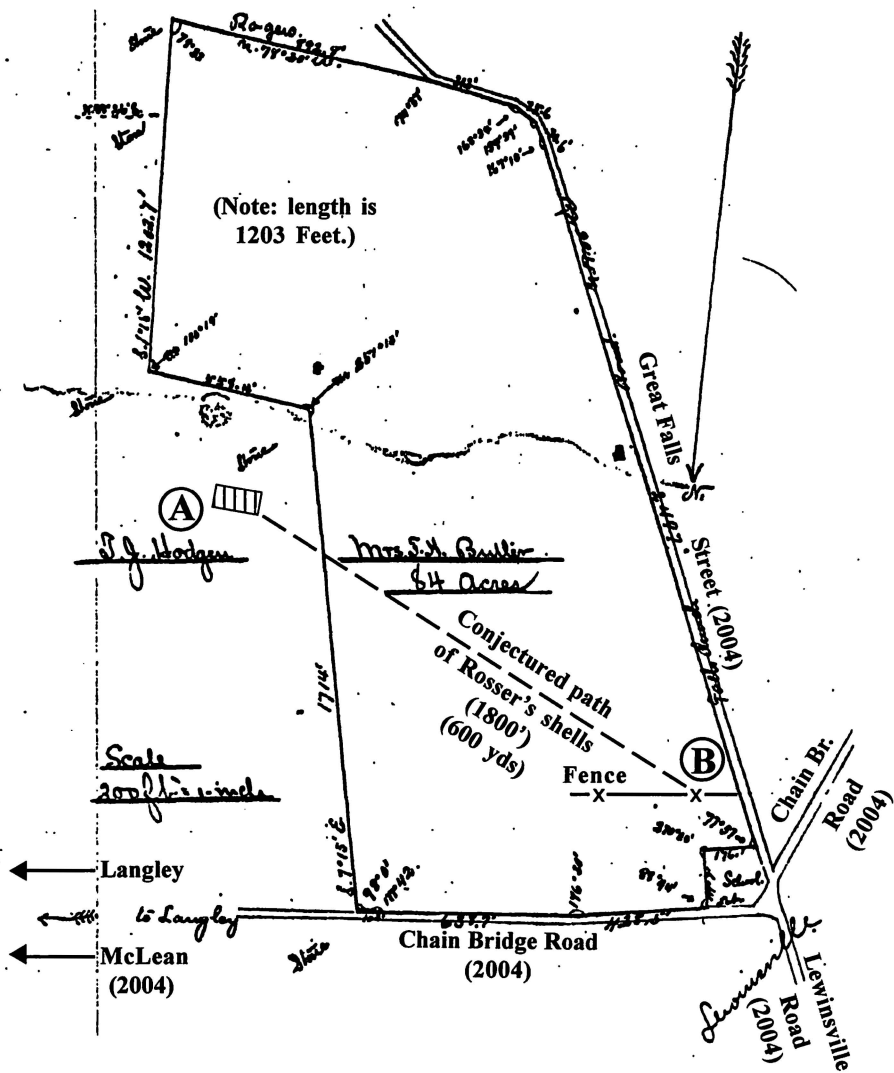


Figure 6. A plat of the Fannie Butler property made by surveyor Joseph Berry, December 1901 (FCDB I6:531) and annotated by the author, January 2004. Berry's scale is 1:300. The Hodgen property adjoins Butler's property to the left. On this plat, A is the house transferred from the Hodgen plat, B is the damaged "worm" fence shown in the Lewinsville engraving on page 54, and the dashed line A-B represents the author's posited 600-yard path of Captain Thomas Rosser's shells. For scaling, the author used the 1203-foot property line distance at upper left. Today's roads are as labeled as (2004).

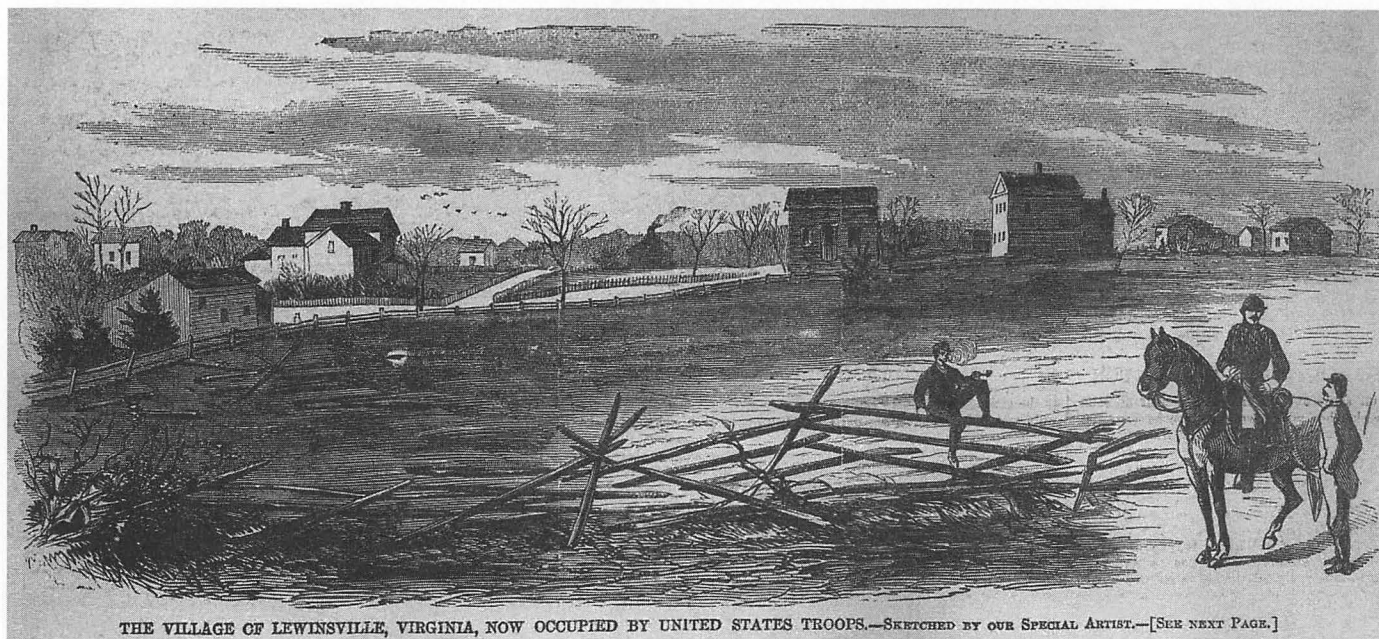


Figure 7. By the time this example of Civil War pictorial journalism was published on 14 December 1861, just how many details had been altered from what began as a pencil sketch by a *Harper's Weekly* Washington-based news-artist is anybody's guess. To the author, the left half of this sketch seems credible as the main road intersection in 1861. These roads may well be the forerunners of today's Great Falls Street, and Lewinsville and Chain Bridge roads. (Compare the curved line of the post-and-rail fence at left center with the intersection shown on Page 53's Figure 6.) Captain Thomas Rosser, CSA, reported, "I moved my section of artillery forward, and surprised, by a shot from the rifle [a 3-inch rifled cannon], a large body of infantry which was occupying an enclosure . . . about 600 yards off." The field beyond the busted-up "worm" fence in the foreground may have held one of Colonel Stevens' regiments in reserve. (See author's conjectured fence line on Page 53's Figure 6.)

Notes

- ¹ Martha Catlin, *A Historical Study of the McLean Community* (Unpublished MS, 1988), 54-56. Available at the Dolley Madison Branch, Fairfax County Public Library, McLean, Virginia.
- ² *Harper's Weekly*, 14 December 1861, 791.
- ³ *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office War Department, 1881), Series I, Volume V, 169. (Hereafter referred to as *OR*.)
- ⁴ Hazard Stevens, *The Life of Isaac Ingalls Stevens, Volume II* (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1900), 329.
- ⁵ *OR*, I, V, 167 and 169-170. Stevens' report, as published, contradicts itself about the participation of Vermont regiments. Compare page 169 of the *OR* with page 170. The author has relied upon the information on page 170 as it agrees with the reports of colonels Stannard and Hyde, of the 2nd Vermont and 3rd Vermont infantry regiments respectively, found on pages 176-177.
- ⁶ *OR*, I, V, 165-166; William Todd, *The Seventy-Ninth Highlanders. New York Volunteers in the War of Rebellion. 1861-1865* (Albany, New York: Press of Brandow, Barton and Co., 1886), 76.
- ⁷ Stevens, 321-328; Todd, 70.
- ⁸ Stevens, 326.
- ⁹ The author considers these to be the most likely positions. He based them on Colonel Stevens' report; personal walkovers of the terrain; a study of a U. S. Geological Survey map (Falls Church, Virginia-Maryland, 1965, PR 1979), and a map found in Stevens' biography.
- ¹⁰ *OR*, I, V, 183.
- ¹¹ Flank order means changing from line-abreast order (left flank, center, right flank) to column order. The companies in the right flank form up at the head of the column, the center companies in the middle, and the left flank in the rear.
- ¹² Stevens, 330-331.
- ¹³ *OR*, I, LI, 42-43.
- ¹⁴ *OR*, I, V, 184.
- ¹⁵ *OR*, I, V, 168 (Smith's Report No. 2).
- ¹⁶ *OR*, I, V, 178 (Mott's Report); *OR*, I, LI, 42-43.
- ¹⁷ *OR*, I, V, 171.
- ¹⁸ *OR*, I, V, 168.
- ¹⁹ *OR*, I, V, 180-181.
- ²⁰ *OR*, I, V, 847-848.

- ²¹ OR, I, V, 175-176.
- ²² Christopher Goodwin & Associates, *Phase II Archeological Survey Adjacent to the Lewinsville House, Lewinsville Park, Fairfax County, Virginia* (Fairfax, Virginia: Fairfax County Park Authority, 1989), 13; John and Benatha Gilbert, Southern Claims Commission, Record Group 217, Box 352 (photocopy on file at County of Fairfax, Circuit Court Archives, Southern Claims Commission File).
- ²³ John and Benatha Gilbert, Southern Claims Commission, Record Group 217, Box 352.
- ²⁴ *Phase II Archeological Survey Adjacent to the Lewinsville House*, 13-14.
- ²⁵ Noel Garraux Harrison, *City of Canvas: Camp Russell A. Alger and the Spanish-American War* (Falls Church, Virginia: Fairfax County History Commission, 1988), 62.

Appendix:

A Listing of Military Reports Examined for 10 and 11 September 1861, Lewinsville, Virginia, Civil War Action

All of these reports are contained in Series I of *The War of Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*.

Volume 5—10 September 1861 (Preliminary Operations)

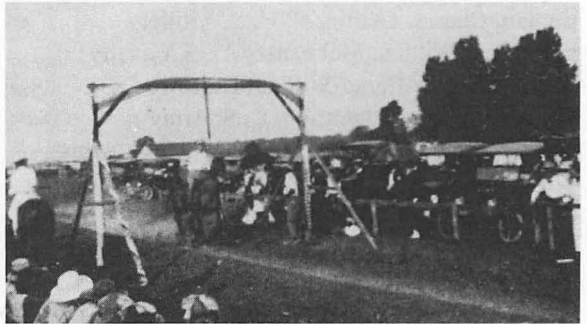
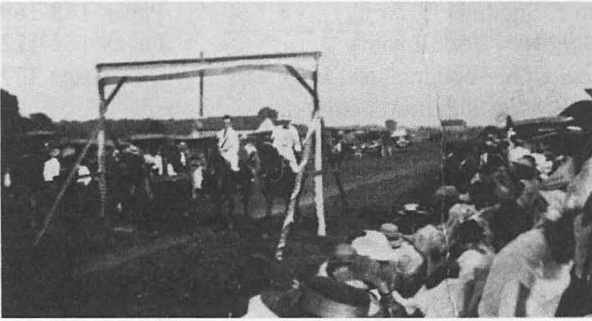
Captain David Ireland, 79 th New York Infantry Regiment	Pages 165-166
Captain Elisha C. Hibbard, 5 th Wisconsin Infantry	Pages 166-167

Volume 5—11 September 1861

Major General George B. McClellan, U. S. Army	Pages 167-168
Brigadier General William F. Smith, U. S. Army	Pages 168-169
Colonel Isaac I. Stevens, 79 th New York Infantry	Pages 169-172
Lieutenant Orlando M. Poe, U. S. Topographical Engineers (Report of participation in withdrawal only)	Page 172
Colonel Solomon Meredith, 19 th Indiana Infantry	Pages 172-173
Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Shaler, 65 th New York Inf.	Page 174
Captain David Ireland, 79 th New York Infantry Regiment	Page 175
Lieutenant Samuel R. Elliott, 79 th New York Infantry	Pages 175-176
Lieutenant Colonel George J. Stannard, 2 nd Vermont Inf.	Pages 176-177
Colonel Breed N. Hyde, 3 rd Vermont Infantry	Page 177
Captain Thaddeus P. Mott, 3 rd New York Artillery Battery	Page 178
Captain Charles Griffin, 5 th U. S. Artillery	Pages 178-179
Lieutenant William McLean, 5 th U. S. Cavalry	Page 179
Acting Aide-de-Camp William Borrowe	Pages 179-180
General Joseph E. Johnston, C. S. Army	Pages 180-181
Brigadier General James Longstreet, C. S. Army	Pages 182-183
Colonel James E. B. Stuart, 1 st Virginia Cavalry	Pages 183-184
General Joseph E. Johnston, C. S. Army	Pages 847-848

Volume 51—11 September 1861

Captain Thomas L. Rosser, Washington Light Artillery	Pages 42-43
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*Figure 1. TOP A photograph taken during the 1915 McLean Day shows the Franklin Sherman School. The ring tournament was held on the "Civic League Lot" sited to the front left of this photograph. MIDDLE and BOTTOM Unidentified riders shown approaching the ring suspended from the wooden arch at the 1917 McLean Day tournament. Photographs originally printed in *McLean Remembers Again* by Louise C. Curran, The Sound Publications, 1976, pages 49 and 51. Permission to reprint given courtesy Daniel Curran*

Quite a Gala Day: Ring Tournaments in Fairfax County

By
Jeanne Niccolls

Jeanne Niccolls is Collections Manager for the Fairfax County Park Authority. She became interested in ring tournaments through objects in the collections (two tournament lances belonging to French Trammel of McLean and Franklin Ellmore of Floris, and a trophy won by Will Clark of Bailey's Crossroads), and through letters and newspaper reports describing events held at several locations that are now parks: Walney (Ellanor C. Lawrence Park), Floris (Frying Pan Farm Park) and Cedar Grove (Mount Air Historic Site).

Yesterday was quite a gala day at Walney - a Tournament was held on the place - some twenty knights contested for the honors of the field & there was some fine riding. A queen and 5 maids of honor were chosen by the victors, & the company adjourned to a beautiful grove where, after a pic-nic dinner, they (estimated to number at least 500) crowded on, & around the platform to witness the coronation - after which, the "royal set" was danced & then two sets kept possession of the floor. The whole scene was very picturesque & pretty . . .¹

The event Emmeline Machen described for her sister-in-law was a ring tournament, a contest of equestrian skill and coordination. Riders, or "knights," galloped individually along a track carrying a long lance with a pointed tip, attempting to spear a tiny ring suspended from a frame. Typically each rider was given three opportunities to capture a series of three small rings in just a few seconds, the rider who speared the greatest number and smallest size rings in the fastest time was declared the winner.² After competing, or "tilting," the knights drew up in a line in front of the judges. The winner had the privilege of crowning the Queen of Love and Beauty; the next three top competitors each named a Maid of Honor.

The sport has a long history, dating back to 12th-century France. Knights "rode at the rings" as training and practice to hone their aim and riding skills, to improve their chances of knocking an enemy off

his horse.³ European noblemen continued the sport long after the lance, sword and bow were replaced by gunpowder. Although reports of tournaments first appeared in America in the colonial period, the romantic revival, with its notions of chivalry and Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*, popularized them in the 1800s, especially in areas with long-standing equestrian traditions.⁴

Reports of ring tournaments in Virginia date back to the 1840s. One of the first was held at Fauquier White Sulphur Springs (now West Virginia) on August 28, 1841.⁵ The first known tournament in Fairfax County took place August 30, 1859, with another on October 25 of that year. Both were held at Fairfax Court House, beginning with a band leading the procession of knights to an adjoining field and concluding with a ball and supper at the Union Hotel.⁶ Over 80 tournaments were held in Fairfax County in the ensuing years, with one or more reported events occurring most years into the 1940s. Although one reporter balefully—and wrongly—predicted in 1873 that “Tournaments, Modocs, and Arctic expeditions are about played out,” at least five contests occurred that year and the next.⁷ Seven were reported in 1926. By the mid-1930s reporters were referring to tournaments as “old-fashioned” or “old time.”⁸

Newspapers reported the results of ring tournaments just as they did horse races, basketball and baseball games, and other community sports events. Not only were they equally newsworthy, tournaments were frequently given the headlines over other local news. At community fairs tournaments were habitually the featured event of the day and competition results were often reported when other contest results were not.

Good horsemanship was considered an important skill well into the 1900s, and ring tournaments were one way riders with expertise and ability could compete with one another and be recognized and lauded. These contests were enjoyable spectator and social events as well. Originally the ring tournament, in tandem with a coronation ball, was the single event of the day. The program followed a traditional series of activities, beginning with a procession, charge to the knights, contest, address and coronation, culminating in a dance accompanied by live music and refreshments. Around 1915 other activities began to routinely accompany tournaments. Eventually they became part of community fairs and celebrations, where they continued to be featured in announcements and headlines and remained a prominent part of the program. (Notable exceptions were the compe-

titions held at Huntmere and the Lord Fairfax Club in the mid-1930s and early 1940s.)

In addition to sponsorship by private individuals, tournaments were sponsored by civic groups early on as fundraising events, often to benefit community projects and school funds. In 1867 the Ladies Memorial Association sponsored a tournament to benefit the Confederate Cemetery at Fairfax Court House. Proceeds helped the newly organized Vienna Fire Department “pay for the recently purchased motor fire engine” in 1921. The American Red Cross was the beneficiary of events held in 1918 and 1940.⁹

Typically tournaments took place in the months between June and October, with the greatest number held in August and September. “Tournament” referred to a ring tournament, with other competitions using the name of the specific sport as an adjective, such as “tennis” tournament or “croquet” tournament, etc. In fact, the word “jousting” was rarely used to describe ring tournaments. Spectator Ann Eliza Shear attended “a mock jousting tournament,” marshal Wes Swart was identified as “a former hero in Fairfax’s jousts.” Franklin Ellmore “proved the best rider in the jousting tournament.” Not until 1940 was it used in a headline by way of distinguishing it from other types of contests: “Jousting Tournament is Expected to Draw Crowd.”¹⁰

While the greatest number of reported events occurred in or near Fairfax Court House and McLean, ring tournaments were held all across the county. Most competitions took place in the fields and groves at area farms. School grounds, fairgrounds and the courthouse grounds also served as tournament sites, especially for those that were part of community fairs.¹¹ The Lord Fairfax Club, Grange exhibition grounds and McLean Civic League lot were also sites. Events at Burke’s Station, Loring, Clifton and Ingleside benefited from their proximity to the railroad to attract spectators. “Pleasure seekers arrived by train from Alexandria” with part of the band for an event in Clifton in 1874.¹² Tournaments held outside Fairfax County in which local riders competed were also occasionally reported in the county news.

At the turn of the 20th century tournaments began to occasionally feature separate contests for professional and amateur riders, who were classed according to their level of skill. “Professional” riders were the highest skilled and most experienced; “Amateur” or “Novice” riders were less skilled and less experienced. Both could ride for prize money; neither received remuneration in the way professional athletes do today.

Besides a "Championship" tournament, a "Ladies" tournament with six contenders was held at Great Falls in 1907. Several of the same women competed in another Ladies Tournament the following year for cash prizes. According to the reporter, "Not much can be said in praise of the speed of the steeds, some of which seemed in no particular hurry to cover the course."¹³ McLean Day in 1936 featured a novel tournament with "riders standing on the running boards of automobiles moving at a speed of at least 18 miles per hour . . . The participants showed they were as skillful with their lances on the new type of locomotion as they were on horseback . . ."¹⁴ Tournaments on horseback and in automobiles were featured at the Vienna Firemen's Carnival of 1921 and the annual Colvin Run Carnival in 1938.¹⁵

The Knights were formed in line . . . by Chief Marshal. . . and soon after preceded by an excellent Band of Music . . . and accompanied by Assistant Marshal . . . and by the Heralds . . . proceeded to the field, where all needful arrangements had been made.¹⁶

Tournaments commenced with a procession of knights on horseback in line to the field accompanied by band music. The audience for ring tournaments depended on the weather, the advertising and the size of the program. Spectators came from the local community where the event was held, from all around the county (especially for the larger fairs) and from across northern Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D. C. Observers could watch the proceedings from seating constructed for the occasion, from their buggies and automobiles or on foot at the rail.¹⁷

Rules to be decided by riders prior to tournament and announced before contest. Regulation tournament rules will be followed as closely as possible. Decision of judges to be final.¹⁸

Presenting a tournament relied on aid from a number of people performing various functions, such as erecting the arches and hanging the rings, constructing the judges and spectators stands, timing and scoring each ride. Chief among these were the judges, marshals and their aides, as well as the scorekeeper and timekeeper. Former knights, area farmers and prominent members of the community were recruited to take on these critical roles. Women also took part. Beginning in 1918 and on up to 1941, Mafie Carper served as scorekeeper—some-

times aided by Sophie Carper. Both women served as judges, as did Miriam Storm and Bessie Wells. Louise Loving was an assistant marshal in 1923.

The Knights were summoned to the Judge's stand to hear the Charge . . . Everything being in readiness the bugle sounded . . .¹⁹

The "charge" consisted of an oration or speech to the knights while they were lined up in front of the judges stand prior to competing. The charge was given by a prominent member of the community, including judges, lawyers, local and state political figures. Confederate veterans, doctors, a Herndon High School principal, and two women, Florence Jodzies and Edith Rogers (Fairfax County Supervisor for Floris) also gave the charge to the knights.

The address was pertinent, happily conceived and handsomely delivered, replete with historical allusions, eloquent thoughts and sound practical advice.²⁰

Traditionally the charge recalled the days of chivalry and was described in terms such as "eloquent," "handsomely done," "appropriate," and "brief, but inspiring." The Hon. E. H. Allen's was given in "the most romantic and approved style."²¹ A Mr. Beach "rendered the charge to the knights in a brief but chaste and elegant address, in which he lauded the institution of chivalry as one brought into existence by the noblest prompting of the human heart . . ." Judge Robinson Moncure's talk was "a distinct effort to impress the relationship of ancient chivalry upon modern day life."²² At a Centreville Day tournament, State Senator John W. Rust "recalled the chivalry of the ancient tournaments and revived interest in historic Centreville."²³

Fairfax has good cause to be proud of the prowess of her sons.²⁴

Competing knights were farmers and their sons, tradesmen and former military men. Among the 25 contestants at a tournament in Vienna just after the Civil War were "many of Mosby's raiders and some of their Federal opponents."²⁵ At least one tournament lightened the concentrated mood of the competition with a bit of levity: "A very amusing feature of the evening was the appearance . . . of a neighboring farmer accoutered and painted as an Indian, and mounted

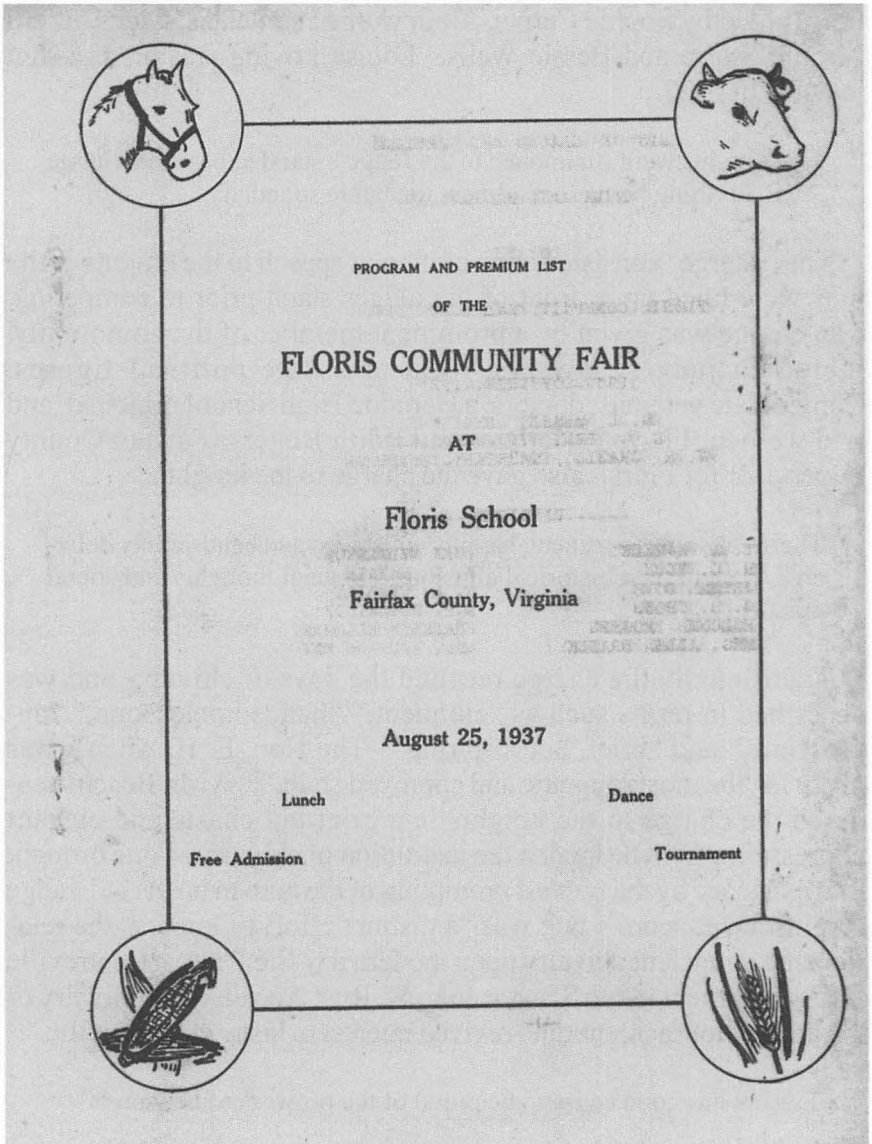


Figure 2. These two pages taken from the 1937 Floris Community Fair's program describe featured events, including a ring tournament. The fair was held on the grounds of modern day Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon. Fairfax County Park Authority Collections, Accession #1999-02-009

PROGRAM FOR THE DAY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1937

JUDGING BEGINS AT 10:00 O'CLOCK FOR:

DAIRY CATTLE
FARM CROPS

HOME MAKERS DEPARTMENT
FUTURE FARMERS CONTEST

HORSE JUDGING BEGINS AT 11:00 A. M.

LUNCHEON WILL BE SOLD ON GROUNDS BEGINNING AT 11:30 A. M.

CHARGE TO THE KNIGHTS 2:00 P.M.

TOURNAMENT BEGINS AT 2:15 P.M.

CORONATION ADDRESS AT 8:00 P.M.

CORONATION OF QUEEN AND MAIDS AT 8:20 P.M.

DANCE FOLLOWS CORONATION

WINNINGS AND PRIZES WILL BE ANNOUNCED
FOLLOWING EACH EVENT.

-----RULES AND REGULATIONS-----

1. ENTRIES ARE OPEN TO ANYONE.
2. ENTRIES CLOSE AT TIME DESIGNATED UNDER EACH DEPARTMENT.
3. DECISION OF JUDGES WILL BE FINAL.
4. ENTRY MUST BE EXHIBITED IN OWNER'S NAME.
5. ENTRIES NOT TO BE REMOVED BEFORE 2:00 P.M.

on a bull, who rode gravely down the line, with a rake handle for a lance, and undertook to carry off the ring. He was received with laughter and applause.”²⁶ Just as riders from elsewhere in Virginia, Washington, D. C., and Maryland competed in tournaments held in Fairfax County, Fairfax knights competed in events held throughout the region, especially in the 1900s when mounts could easily be driven in trailers to the tournament site.

Early accounts of tournaments listed the names of all the competitors, but after the 1870s generally only the top four winners were mentioned in newspaper reports. In keeping with medieval tournament tradition each knight took on a fictitious name. Some were fanciful, such as Knight of the Golden Rod or Knight of Stignation. Others were intended to be humorous, such as Knight of No Chance, The Reckless Knight or Knight of the Lost Cause. But usually the names were based on the name of the farm, town or county where the rider was from, for example, Knight of Moray, Knight of Greenway, Knight of Maplewood or Knight of Fairfax, Knight of Gum Spring and Knight of Centreville.

While most knights used the same name consistently, sometimes riders changed names; sometimes the same names were used by different knights. Bennie Utterback began riding as the Knight of Seven Up, and then switched to Knight of Lone Star, a name used earlier by E.M. Jackson. M.J. Worster, Luther Kirby and Benjamin Hunter all rode as the Knight of Fairfax. H.A. Peck and Harry Palmer were both knights of Old Virginia. Henry Bailey, W.H. Larmon and W.A. Barnes all entered the lists as the Knight of Old Dominion. After the late 1920s these appellations ceased to be included in most reports, with only the given name of the rider and perhaps the town or county where he was from mentioned.

Competition in ring tournaments could become a family affair. Fathers and sons, brothers and other relatives entered tournaments over the years. For example, Henry and Horace Bailey, Peyton, Jack and Ethelbert Ayers, Earl and L.A. Popkins, and Bennie and Robert Utterback competed against one another in the same tournaments. Several knights achieved a measure of distinction for their skill and consistent victories. Among them were Wes Swart, “a former hero in all of Fairfax’s jousts,”²⁷ and John R. Stewart, “Knight of Driving Park View” and “the well-known horseman of Fairfax County.”²⁸

Esler Palmer was a “slender youth of only 16 years old who crowned his first queen . . . last year” when he nearly bested William L. Clark,

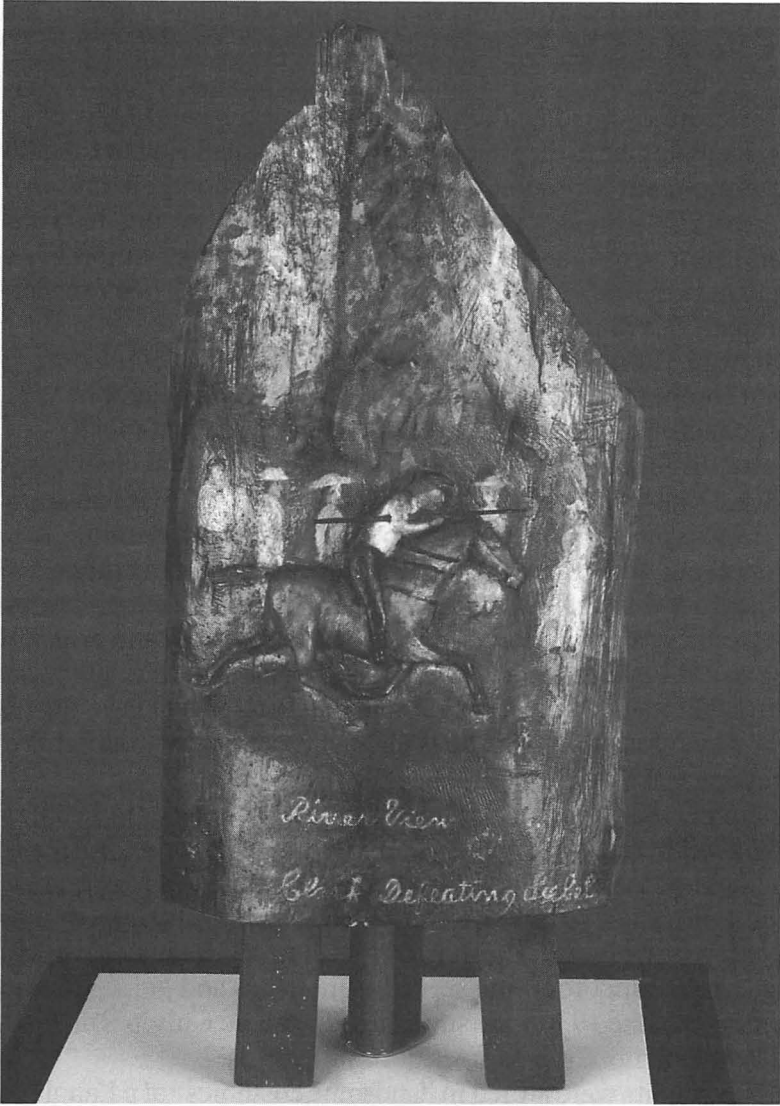


Figure 3. The ring tournament trophy won by William L. Clark, "Knight of Virginia Boy," on August 15, 1906 at River View Resort in Maryland. Carved from a section of tree trunk, it has painted decorations and an applied painted wood figure of a rider on a galloping horse. The horse's tail was made from a bird feather; the rider's lance from a long toothpick. "River View" and "Clark Defeating Siebel" were painted at the bottom, along with onlookers, a flag, and trees in the background. The attached legs are wood slats. Dimensions: Base of tree section 10½ inches wide, 19¾ inches high (without legs), 2⅜ inches deep at the thickest part of the base, and ¾ inches deep near the thickest part of the top. Photograph taken by Don Sweeney. Fairfax County Park Authority Collections, Accession #1993-22-002

Knight of Virginia Boy, in 1903. Palmer continued to ride and 35 years later was a judge at the contests at the Lord Fairfax Club. Clark, "an 'old timer' on a well-trained horse that has carried him to victory scores of times. . . . had crowned many Queens and Maids of Honor from the Potomac to the Blue Ridge, from Marshall Hall to Chantilly."²⁹ Not quite ready to retire, Clark continued to compete and in 1906 won the 20th annual tournament at River View resort, in which 15 riders from Virginia, Maryland and the District of Colombia competed and where "The riding was the finest that has been seen in this section of the country for a number of years."³⁰

George Thomas Head, "the youthful Knight of Munson's Hill," began competing as an amateur in 1899. Five years later he was "the most consistent winner of prizes in the tournament contests," including the Virginia, Maryland and District of Colombia championship, for which he was awarded "a handsome gold belt" with an appropriate inscription. One reporter thought enough of Head to write an article about him, remarking on his "rare and becoming modesty" and the qualities that "make him a peer among his kind": expert horsemanship, a quiet calculating eye and an ultra steady hand and arm. "However, not a little of the credit for his successes is due his mount, a thoroughly trained and trusty animal, much loved by his young master . . . A pronounced favorite he is cheered vociferously upon his every appearance at the tiltings."³¹

Henry D. Hirst began his career as an amateur rider in 1906, riding as the Knight of Bluebells. By 1916 he was competing in the professional class. A year later he won the tournament at McLean Day as Knight of Langley Boy. He continued to ride and compete over the next 20 years, placing fourth in a contest in 1936. Like several other long-time competitors who served as marshals and judges for tournaments in the late 1930s, Hirst was a judge at the Colvin Run Carnival and Lord Fairfax Club competitions in 1938.

"The knights were attired in handsome costumes" at a Langley tournament in 1871,³² and twelve-year old "Master Richard Lee, the Knight of Buckland, attracted much attention by his fine costume, youthful appearance, and good riding" in 1878.³³ The much lauded Thomas Head, on the other hand, "disdains the unavailing spectacular trappings and furbelows affected by many of his opponents, and enters the lists clad only in ordinary street attire, often without even the conventional leather leggings."³⁴ The "Tournament Rules" in a McLean Day program from the early 1920s cautioned "Knights are Expected to

Tournament

JUDGES

Clifton Laughlin
F. L. Trammell
J. C. Storm

OFFICIALS

Grand Marshall,
JOHN H. CARPER.
Assistant Marshall,
HENRY MAGARITY

AIDES

Miss Mirian Storm
Miss Bessie Wells

Official Timekeeper, H. A. Storm.

Tournament Rules

ENTRANCE FEES

Professional \$2.50

Amateur 2.00

PRIZES

Professional Tournament:

1st, \$25; 2d, \$15

3d, \$10; 4th, \$5.

Amateur Tournament

1st \$15; 2d, \$10

3d, \$8; 4th, \$6.

Professional Tournament

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Every rider to have four rides including trial ride.2. Size of rings, 1 inch.3. First Tie Rings, 3-4 inch.4. Second Tie Rings, 1-2 inch.5. Height of ring from ground, 6 feet, 9 inches.6. Length of Lance, 7 feet.7. Distance, 60 yards.8. Time, 6 seconds (this means 6, not 6 1-5 or 6 1-2.)9. Any knight failing to make time will have to ride over again, if he fails on second attempt to make the required time he will be ruled out. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">10. If anything interferes with a knight while riding he must lower his lance, and return, and will be given that ride over. But if he does not lower his lance, an attempt at any ring is a go.11. If a knight misses one or more rings, and fails to make time, he will not be allowed to ride over again at any rings missed.12. The decisions of the judges are final and must not be questioned. Any discourtesy shown to the judges will disqualify the contestant.13. These rules will be strictly enforced and in no case will any entrance fee be returned to a knight disqualified for any infraction thereof. |
|--|---|

KNIGHTS ARE EXPECTED TO RIDE IN COSTUME.

Figure 4. This McLean Day ring tournament program dates from the early 1920s. Permission to reprint given courtesy Henry C. Mackall

Ride in Costume.” Apparently, as time went on, parts of costume continued to be worn but were not overly emphasized.

Riders took to the lists to tilt for the handsome prizes offered.³⁵

“Taking to the lists” referred to the entry lists with the names of the knights registered for the contest. Contests were “spirited.” The riding was “fine,” “on the whole good,” “snappy,” or (ideally for the riders) “excellent, and without accident.”³⁶ On one occasion, however, “no serious accidents occurred, though two gallant knights touched bottom, by reason of a giving way of saddle girts.”³⁷

Ties were not infrequent and added to the excitement of the tournament. The contest between William L. Clark and Esler Palmer “exhibited the finest horsemanship and skill in taking the small rings in the tie rides that has been seen in many years . . .”³⁸ They were resolved by mutual agreement. After riding six times each without any misses, even after a smaller ring had been substituted, three contestants “and the horses beginning to get exhausted and the hour growing late . . . agreed to divide the prize, and thus ended the tournament.”³⁹ At another event, “the knights were so evenly matched that their horses broke down, and the contest was decided by the drawing of straws.”⁴⁰

Riders were charged entrance fees, from \$1 or \$2 for amateurs and from \$2 to \$2.50 for professionals. Prizes consisted of cash, trophies or ribbons for the winners of both professional and amateur competitions. An early tournament awarded the winning knight \$25, a pair of silver plated spurs and a blue sash with silver trim.⁴¹ The top three winners of a Ladies Tournament in 1907 received prizes of gold jewelry, while fourth place took home an umbrella.⁴² Occasionally there was a large purse of \$50 offered, but more typically the top four knights received cash prizes: \$16, \$12, \$8, and \$4 in the 1870s, and from \$25 to \$5 for professionals and from \$15 to \$6 for amateurs in the 1920s. Winning knights at the Floris Fair in 1937 received ribbons; a ribbon also went to the best performing horse.⁴³ And, of course, the culmination of the day’s sport and a much coveted distinction was crowning the Queen of Love and Beauty and her Maids of Honor.

The honors all being won, the Knights were again summoned to the Stand, where the successful knights were severally addressed and congratulated . . . in short by eloquently appropriate speeches - each knight after the address designating the Lady he had chosen . . .⁴⁴

The queen and her maids were the girlfriends, mothers, sisters, relatives and friends of the knights. Together with their knights they formed the "royal set." Sometimes winners from both the amateur and professional classes crowned a queen and maids of honor each, so that there were two royal sets leading off the evening's dancing. Henry D. Hirst consistently chose Mafie Carper as his queen or maid; she eventually became his bride.⁴⁵ Franklin Ellmore crowned Charlotte Lovelace queen after winning the Floris Fair tournament in 1937, 1938 and 1940, then Joan Arbrogas of Washington, D.C. in 1941.

At night, the crowning of the Queen, and the investing with beautiful Head-Dresses of the Maids of Honor . . . a neat and very appropriate speech on the interesting occasion; immediately after which, the Queen was escorted to a neatly arranged throne, and surrounded by her Maids of Honor. A Grand Ball was then commenced . . . the large company of ladies and gentlemen partook of a sumptuous Supper.⁴⁶

The coronation ceremony and ball typically ended a tournament day, taking place in the evening, and generally accompanied by a supper, picnic or refreshments. They were held outdoors in groves and pavilions, indoors in hotels and halls near the tournament grounds, inside the courthouse and in school auditoriums.

The Queen was escorted to her throne and surrounded by her Maids of Honor, whereupon Gov. Smith . . . stepped forward and delivered a very pretty and felicitous speech . . . in the course of which he paid a deservedly high compliment to the Virginia Ladies.⁴⁷

As part of the coronation ceremony, a coronation address was directed to the queen and maids of honor. Among those who gave addresses were former military officers, political figures, judges and attorneys, local dignitaries and out-of-town guests. Some of the same people gave the charge at one event and the address at another, sometimes they gave both at the same tournament. The address was generally described as "chaste," "appropriate," "beautiful" or "eloquent," and occasionally "to the point." An address by Commonwealth's Attorney Wilson M. Farr was "instructive and inspiring," the Hon. Frank Ball gave one that was "a real booster," Attorney Frederick Flynn's was "teaming with the history of chivalry" and one by Colonel Robert E. Lee, Jr. "brought smiles to each fair damsel's face in his eulogy of Virginia's fair daughters."⁴⁸

Following the ceremony, the royal set led off the dancing. The music, usually provided by a band, often went on until midnight and into the early hours of the morning. "Dancing was kept up until the neighborhood chanticleers gave warning that aurora was illuminating the eastern horizon." The royal set danced a cotillion at one dance; elsewhere "the Knight and fair lady [performed] the graceful quadrille . . ." Another began with "the lancers" and broke up with the Virginia Reel, and a Charleston contest was featured at a coronation dance in 1926. In later years, as Elizabeth Ellmore described it, "They would whoop it up. Kind of a hillbilly band. Square dance."⁴⁹ New technology was approvingly applied: "The evening events were greatly added to by the adequate lighting by electricity from a Delco plant on an auto trailer, which . . . excited much interest," "Those not dancing were entertained by open air moving pictures," and "The unusual feature of the dancing to music from New York by radio was much enjoyed."⁵⁰

Even the last known reported ring tournament, held at the Floris Community Fair in 1942, observed that "the old-fashioned riding tournament . . . was one of the main features."⁵¹ As Elizabeth and Emma Ellmore and Rebecca Middleton recollected:

At one time as one of the features of the fair, they had a tournament. They had the course set up at the back of the lot and the young men with their horses. That ended with the crowning of the queen, and they'd have a dance that night . . . there was quite a bit of ceremony that went with it. Before they started they used to line up on the horses. A speaker, sometimes a political and sometimes a prominent person, would give a charge to the knights.⁵²

Her description suggests that the basic format of the tournament, accompanied by formal addresses, and followed by a coronation and dance, changed little in nearly 85 years of contests in Fairfax County, and remained on the whole "a pleasant and agreeable affair."

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Andrea Lowenwarter for originally sparking this interest in ring tournaments, to Brian Conley and Edith Sprouse for passing on accounts of tournaments, and to the staff of the Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library, for their unflagging support. The author welcomes additional artifacts or documentation about ring tournaments in Fairfax County.

Notes

1. Her description continues: "groups of people in contrasted costumes & every description of vehicles from an ox-cart to buggies & carriages including Ambulance & wagons of every conceivable size & variety, while horses were scattered about, forming such a toute-ensemble as would delight an artist & give innumerable subjects for his pencil. Dear Mother was persuaded to drive out with us (the whole family were represented from the youngest to the oldest) to look at the riding & would have looked on at the dancers in the Grove if a passing shower on our way had not driven us to the house." Emmeline Machen to Minnie Machen, August 27, 1873, Papers of Lewis H. Machen and Family, Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress.
2. Professional tournament rules from an event held in McLean stipulated that a knight was allowed four chances to ride a distance of 60 yards in 6 seconds, carrying a seven-foot lance to capture a series of rings in decreasing sizes (1 inch, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch), suspended 6 feet, 9 inches from the ground. Louise C. Curran and William J. Curran, *McLean Remembers*, McLean: The McLean Scene, Inc., 1967, 20. Two lances have been preserved in the Fairfax County Park Authority's collection. One belonged to Claude Jenkins. With an overall length of 83½ inches, it has an oak handle painted red and tapered at both ends. A 19¼-inch solid steel pointed tip (3/16-inch wide at the point) is attached to one end with a metal rivet. (Accession #2003-05-001.) The other lance was used in practice by the Knight of Woodbine, French Trammell. With an overall length of 86½ inches, it has an oak handle with a section of hollow galvanized metal pipe at one end. Round iron bar stock (23 inches long) tapered and squared ending in an arrow-shaped pointed tip is inserted into a 5-inch-long metal collar at the lance's other end. (Accession #1989-03-012.)
3. Eileen M. Carlton, "Jousting", *Loudoun Times-Mirror*, November 15, 1995, C1.
4. Sandra D. Izer and Linda Enfield Minnick, *National Jousting Association's Guide to the Ring Tournament*, Middletown, MD: Mid Valley Pagemaker, 1992, 12. Ring tournaments remain popular today. The National Jousting Association maintains its headquarters and Hall of Fame at Mount Solon, Natural Chimneys State Park. Ring jousting clubs in Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland practice the sport and hold regional and national competitions.
5. Mt. Solon, Virginia, purportedly was the site of a tournament held in 1821. It claims to be America's oldest continuously held sporting event; tournaments are held there annually to this day.
6. *Alexandria Gazette*, October 1, 1859 and October 29, 1859.
7. *Fairfax News*, June 27, 1873, 3.
8. *Herndon Observer*, September 5, 1940, 1.

9. *Alexandria Gazette*, August 24, 1867; *The Fairfax Herald*, July 8, 1921; *The Fairfax Herald*, August 9, 1918, 2; *Herndon Observer*, September 5, 1940, 1.
10. Ann Eliza Shear to Frances Sherman, August 24 and 27, 1873, Rena Shear Mankin Collection, in Richard Gamble, *Sully, Biography of a House*, The Sully Foundation, 1973, 122 and 217; *Herndon Observer*, October 21, 1926, 1; *Herndon Observer*, September 23, 1927; *Herndon Observer*, September 5, 1940, 1.
11. Among the locations of tournament events were Walney, Floris and Woodlawn.
12. *Fairfax News*, October 2, 1874.
13. *The Fairfax Herald*, August 28, 1908.
14. *The Fairfax Herald*, August 7, 1936, 5.
15. *The Fairfax Herald*, July 8, 1921, and August 26, 1938.
16. *Alexandria Gazette*, October 1, 1859.
17. "Around the pavilion and the woods immediately adjoining it were fixed benches and seats . . ." *Fairfax News*, October 2, 1874.
18. *Floris Fourth Annual Community Fair Program*, September 10, 1938, Fairfax County Park Authority Collections.
19. *Alexandria Gazette*, October 1, 1859.
20. *Alexandria Gazette*, October 29, 1859.
21. *Herndon Observer*, October 27, 1927.
22. *Alexandria Gazette*, August 31, 1876; *Herndon Observer*, September 9, 1926.
23. *The Fairfax Herald*, September 15, 1922, 5.
24. *Alexandria Gazette*, October 1, 1859.
25. *Alexandria Gazette*, October 1, 1868.
26. *Alexandria Gazette*, October 4, 1878.
27. *Herndon Observer*, October 21, 1926, 1.
28. *The Fairfax Herald*, June 26, 1908, 3.
29. *The Fairfax Herald*, August 21, 1903.
30. William L. Clark was the owner of the Clark House near Bailey's Crossroads, which now is a Fairfax County Park Authority property. The hand carved wood trophy commemorating his win is on display there.; *Washington Post* August 19, 1906 and *Evening Star*, August 16, 1906.
31. *The Fairfax Herald*, November 9, 1906, 3.
32. *Alexandria Gazette*, March 14 and March 16, 1871.
33. *Alexandria Gazette*, October 4, 1878.
34. *The Fairfax Herald*, November 9, 1906, 3.
35. *Herndon Observer*, August 4, 1927.
36. *Alexandria Gazette*, October 1, 1859; *Fairfax News* October 2, 1874; *The Fairfax Herald*, October 10, 1924; *Alexandria Gazette*, March 14, 1871 and March 16, 1871.
37. *Fairfax News*, October 2, 1874.

38. *The Fairfax Herald*, August 21, 1903.
39. *Alexandria Gazette*, October 4, 1878.
40. The disapproving reporter went on to comment that this was “a fitting finale of these mock shows of a barbaric age and custom.” *Fairfax News*, June 27, 1873, 3.
41. *Alexandria Gazette*, March 14, 1871 and March 16, 1871.
42. *The Fairfax Herald*, October 11, 1907, 3.
43. *Program and Premium List of the Floris Community Fair*, August 25, 1937, Fairfax County Park Authority Collections, Accession #199-02-009.
44. *Alexandria Gazette*, October 1, 1859.
45. Curran and Curran, *McLean Remembers*, 51.
46. *Alexandria Gazette*, October 1, 1859.
47. *The Fairfax Herald*, October 29, 1859.
48. *The Fairfax Herald*, September 15, 1922; *Herndon Observer*, October 21, 1926; *The Fairfax Herald*, September 7, 1928; *The Fairfax Herald*, June 19, 1914.
49. *Fairfax News*, October 30, 1874; *Alexandria Gazette*, March 16, 1871; *Alexandria Gazette*, August 31, 1876; *The Fairfax Herald*, November 2, 1906, 3; *The Fairfax Herald*, August 27, 1926; Transcript of Elizabeth Pryor interview with Emma Ellmore, Elizabeth Ellmore and Rebecca Middleton, March 8, 1979, Virginia Room Oral History Collection, Frying Pan Farm Park Research, 8.
50. *The Fairfax Herald*, August 10, 1917; *The Fairfax Herald*, August 9, 1918; *The Fairfax Herald*, September 21, 1923.
51. Ominously, the column headline above the report of this last event, a feature of the Floris Fair, reads “Draftees to Report for Physical Examination.” *Herndon News-Observer*, September 3, 1942, 1.
52. Transcript of Elizabeth Pryor interview with Emma Ellmore, Elizabeth Ellmore and Rebecca Middleton, March 8, 1979, Virginia Room Oral History Collection, Frying Pan Farm Park Research, 7.

Appendix:

Ring Tournaments Held in Fairfax County, Virginia, Between the Years 1859-1942

August 30, 1859

Location: Fairfax Courthouse (field adjoining the village); coronation at the Union Hotel – **Marshals:** William H. Dulany – **Aides:** James Sangster, John H. Barnes, G.H. Blincoe – **Judges:** Alfred Moss, N. Burke, J.C. Gunnell, W. Powell, O.W. Hunt – **Charge:** S.T. Stuart – **Number of Knights:** 24 – **Knights and Prizes:** George H. Bell, Knight of the Chase - 1st; E.M. Lowe, The Reckless Knight - 2nd; Albert Wrenn, Knight of the Lick - 3rd; J.T. Williams, Knight of Prince William - 4th; W.A. Barnes, Knight of the Old Dominion; B.T. Dulany, Knight of Raven Plume; Charles Stewart, Knight of Piney Ridge; Hugh Mitchell, Knight of Ivanhoe; Thomas R. Sangster, Knight of the Wave; J.C. Kincheloe, Knight of the Forest; Calvin Powell, Knight of Republican Mills; Lucian Davis, Knight of Lochinvar; Benjamin Green, Knight of Georgia; M.J. Worster, Knight of Fairfax; John H. Thomas, Alexandria; Alb. Fox, Knight of the Red, White and Blue; Benjamin F. Bell, Knight of Stafford; Thos. Chichester, the Unknown Knight; James W. Hunton, Knight of Hiawatha; Berkeley Monroe, Knight of the Glen; J.T. Jackson, Knight of the Wilderness; R. Meredith, Knight of the Seven Seas; J.T. Arundell, Knight of Sandy Run; Robert Crosen, Knight of Potomac – **Queen:** Anna L. Powell – **Maids:** Laura V. Jackson; Eugenia E. T. Fox; Mary M. Hoag – **Coronation Address:** B.H. Berry, Alexandria – **Attendant Activities:** Band from Washington led procession to the field; Grand Ball and supper – **Source:** *Alexandria Gazette*, October 1, 1859

October 25, 1859 (Second tournament held here this season)

Location: Fairfax Courthouse (the field); coronation in dining saloon of the Union Hotel – **Marshals:** William H. Dulany – **Aides:** Blincoe, Sangster, Barnes, Sanders – **Judges:** O.W. Hunt, N. Burke, S. Heflebower, Dr. I. Williams – **Charge:** Gov. William Smith – **Number of Knights:** 9 – **Knights and Prizes:** Thos. R. Sangster, Knight of Alabama - 1st; John H. Thomas, Knight of the Village - 2nd; W.A. Barnes, Knight of Old Dominion - 3rd; Albert Fox, Knight of the Silver Rose - 4th; Charles Stewart, Knight of the Ridge; Albert Wrenn, the Roving Knight; B.F. Bell, the Disinherited

Knight; J.C. Kincheloe, Knight of Bussora; Geo. H. Bell, Knight of the Prairies – **Queen:** Mrs. E.M. Millan – **Maids:** Nannie Thomas (crowned by substitute); Georgy Skinner (crowned by substitute); Orra S. Richardson – **Coronation Address:** Gov. Smith – **Attendant Activities:** Prof. Wither’s band led the procession to the field, ball and supper – **Source:** *Alexandria Gazette*, October 29, 1859

September 25, 1860

Sponsor: Tournament of the Fairfax Rifle Rangers – **Location:** Fairfax Courthouse; coronation at the Union Hotel – **Marshals:** Captain Dulany – **Aides:** Blincoe, Barnes – **Charge:** M.D. Ball – **Number of Knights:** 15 – **Knights and Prizes:** David Marks, Knight of Burke’s Station; Samuel Barnes, Knight of the Evening Star; Philip P. Gooding, Knight of the South; M.D. Ball, Knight of the Turf; Albert Wrenn, Knight of the Valley; John H. Monroe, Knight of Georgetown; Albert Fox, Knight of Ingomar; M.F. Ball, Knight of Pine Orchard; S.A. Coon, Knight of the Ranch; George A. Armes, Knight of the Planet; Dr. John F. Jones, Knight of the Union; Robert Taylor, Knight of the Rangers; Ferd. Beach, Knight of Pope’s Head; Ben. F. Bell, Knight of the Bleeding Heart; Henry Thompson, Knight of Cooney – **Queen:** Mary E. Ferguson – **Maids:** Mary Hoag; E.V. Richardson; Nannie Thomas – **Coronation Address:** Capt. Dulany – **Attendant Activities:** Rangers escorted the knights to the tournament grounds, returned in procession to the village; ball and supper – **Source:** *Alexandria Gazette*, September 28, 1860

September 19, 1867 (Planned for September, 10, 1867 - rained out)

Sponsor: Ladies’ Memorial Association (to benefit the Confederate Cemetery at Fairfax Court House) – **Location:** Fairfax Court House grounds, coronation and ball inside courthouse – **Type:** Grand Tournament – **Charge:** James Sangster – **Number of Knights:** 20 “contestants for the chivalric honors” – **Knights and Prizes:** S.F. Gardiner, Knight of Prince George’s - 1st; C.A. Fox, Reckless Knight - 2nd; N.S. Ball, Knight of Fallen Braves - 3rd; Jerome Emigh, Outlawed Knight - 4th; Philip Gooding, Knight of the Swamp - 5th; Charles F. Taylor, Knight of Hiawatha - 6th – **Queen:** Rose Thomas – **Maids:** Annie Gunnell; Alice Jackson; Lavinia Lydecker; Amelia Jackson; Mollie Chapman – **Coronation Address:** Col. M.D. Ball – **Attendant Activities:** Ball, band from Georgetown – **Source:** *Alexandria Gazette*, August 24, 1867, p.2; September 9, 1867, p.2; September 10, 1867, p.2; September 12, 1867, p.3; September 20, 1867, p.3

October 1, 1868

Location: Vienna – **Marshals:** Capt. M.M. Ball – **Aides:** Capt. J.H. Barnes, Dr. A.C. Fox – **Number of Knights:** 25; “Many of Mosby’s raiders, and some of their Federal opponents, among the knights” – **Knights and Prizes:** Benjamin Trammell - won the “palm of victory” – **Queen:** Libby Bowman, Vienna – **Attendant Activities:** Ball, dinner – **Source:** *Alexandria Gazette*, October 1, 1868

March 14, 1871 - a “Tornay”

Location: On the riverside, about a mile from Langley; coronation at Hubbell’s Hotel – **Marshals:** Capt. J.H. Barnes – **Aides:** George A. Rowze, E.M. Jackson – **Number of Knights:** 13; “The knights were attired in handsome costumes” – **Knights and Prizes:** E.M. Jackson, Knight of Lone Star -\$25, silver plated spurs, blue sash with silver trim; John Hanavan, Knight of Hope; W.H. Larmon, Knight of Old Dominion; John D. Jackson, Knight of Great Falls; John Steuart, Knight of Sylvia; John Reed, Knight of Virginia; James Reed, Knight of No Chance; William Thomas, Knight of Bull’s Neck; G.T. Lockett, Knight of Forest; S. Ridgely, Knight of Maryland; Ben Oliver, Knight of Prospect Hill; W.T. Gunnell, Knight of Springvale; Pope Gunnell, Knight of Jericho – **Queen:** Alice Jackson, Washington City – **Maids:** Martha Moore; Nettie Barnes; Annie Moore – **Coronation Address:** Dr. H.W. Turpin – **Attendant Activities:** Cotillion, music, supper – **Source:** *Alexandria Gazette*, March 14, 1871 and March 16, 1871

October 18, 1871

Location: Broadwater’s Woods, near Fairfax Court House – **Charge:** Judge Thomas – **Attendant Activities:** Picnic – **Source:** *Alexandria Gazette*, October 7, 1871 and October 21, 1871

June 21, 1873

Location: Beach’s Grove – **Address:** J. Sangster – **Knights and Prizes:** Even match; contest decided by drawing straws – **Coronation Address:** R.R. Farr – **Source:** *Fairfax News*, June 27, 1873, p. 3

August 14, 1873 - “Mock jousting tournament” (Ann Eliza Shear)

Location: Fairfax Court House – **Type:** Grand Tournament – **Charge:** Col. M.D. Ball – **Number of Knights:** Over 30 – **Coronation Address:** Judge James Sangster – **Attendant Activities:** Ball – **Source:** *Fairfax*

News, August 1, 1873; Ann Eliza Shear to Frances Sherman, August 24 and 27, 1873, Rena Shear Mankin Collection, in Richard Gamble, *Sully, Biography of a House*, The Sully Foundation, 1973, pp. 122, 217

August 26, 1873

Location: Walney, near Centreville; picnic and coronation in “a beautiful grove” – **Number of Knights:** “Some twenty knights contested for the honors of the field” – **Queen:** “A Queen” – **Maids:** “Five Maids of Honor” – **Attendant Activities:** Picnic, dancing – **Source:** Emmeline Machen to Minnie Machen, August 27, 1873, Papers of Lewis H. Machen and Family, Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress

August 28, 1873

Location: Fairfax Court House – **Charge:** Col. M.D. Ball, Alexandria Sentinel – **Number of Knights:** About 20 – **Knights and Prizes:** E.M. Jackson; W.E. Thomas; George Stewart; Frank Dodson – **Queen:** Maggie Thomas – **Maids:** M. Spearing; Pinkie Thomas; Mary Dugan – **Coronation Address:** Judge Sangster – **Attendant Activities:** Dancing – **Source:** *Fairfax News*, August 29, 1873

September 1, 1873

Location: Centreville – **Charge:** Judge Sangster – **Knights and Prizes:** Knight of Who Would have Thought It?; Knight of the Period; Knight of Centreville; Knight of Pohick; Knight of the Courthouse; Knight of I Don’t Care – **Queen:** Sallie Lewis – **Maids:** Eglantine Harrison; Jennie Dear; Alice Harrison; A. Harrison – **Coronation Address:** H. C. Dear of Omaha, Nebraska – **Source:** *Fairfax News*, September 5, 1873, p. 3

October 22, 1873 (last of the season)

Location: Field a few hundred yards east of Dranesville; coronation and dancing in “the ballroom” – **Type:** Grand Tournament – **Marshals:** M.W. Palmer, Centreville – **Aides:** William Summers, Loudoun County – **Charge:** R.R. Farr, Fairfax Court House – **Number of Knights:** 18 – **Knights and Prizes:** L.B. Pattie, The Jockey Knight, Prince William County - \$16; William D. Willcoxon, Knight of Nil Desperadum, Fairfax Court House - \$12; William Palmer, Knight of Defiance, Centreville - \$8; Edgar Jackson, Knight of Newkirk House, Washington D.C. - \$4 – **Queen:** Annie E. Palmer, Loudoun County – **Maids:** Rosetta Farr; Annie Pressgraves, Dranesville; Eugenie Oliver; Utterback; Gunnell; Smith –

Coronation Address: E.M. Lowe – **Attendant Activities:** Speeches by candidates for office: Judge R.H. Cockerille, James M. Love, County Canvasser M.H. Wells of the Conservative Party; Judge J. H. Gray and Job Hawxhurst of the Radical Party; dancing – **Source:** *Fairfax News*, October 24, 1873

August 13, 1874

Location: Centreville – **Marshals:** 1 – **Aides:** 2 – **Number of Knights:** 22 – **Knights and Prizes:** William Palmer; Joseph Byrne; Robert Utterback; W.E. Thomas – **Queen:** Augusta Wrenn – **Maids:** Lula McLean; [?] Townshend; Lizzie Burke – **Attendant Activities:** Picnic, beer booth – **Source:** *Fairfax News*, August 7, 1874, p. 3 and August 14, 1874, p. 3

September 23, 1874

Location: Pleasant Valley – **Marshals:** M.W. Palmer – **Aides:** Arthur Wrenn – **Knights and Prizes:** Bennie Utterback, Knight of Seven Up; Robert Utterback, Knight of Our Village; William Palmer, Knight of Vashtie; Walter Palmer, Knight of the Golden Star – **Queen:** Annie Patton, Middleburg – **Maids:** Jennie Patton, Middleburg; Oscie Triplett, Washington; Mattie Mankins, Loudoun County – **Source:** *Fairfax News*, September 25, 1874, p. 2

September 30, 1874

Location: Fairfax Court House – **Charge:** James M. Love – **Coronation Address:** M. H. Wells – **Source:** *Fairfax News*, October 2, 1874

September 28, 1874

Location: Clifton; coronation at “the pavilion” – **Charge:** C.C. Gheen – **Knights and Prizes:** Bennie Utterback, Knight of the Lone Star - 1st; Henry Tillet, Knight of Littleites - 2nd; Setton Crouch, Knight of Silver Star - 3rd; Cuff Cooksey, Knight of the Lost Cause - 4th – **Queen:** Maria Jamison – **Maids:** Emma Woodyard; Jennie Kincheloe; Sarah Marshall – **Coronation Address:** C.C. Gheen – **Attendant Activities:** Picnic, band, croquet, baseball, the “fascinating game,” dancing, refreshments – **Source:** *Fairfax News*, October 2, 1874

October 28, 1874

Location: A.T. Willcoxon farm, near Fairfax Court House; dance at “the hall” – **Knights and Prizes:** F.W. Richardson - 1st; W.D. Willcoxon - 2nd;

Harry P. Willcoxon - 3rd; Alex Blight - 4th – **Queen:** Maggie Thomas – **Maids:** Madge Richardson; Kate Fillebrown; Susie Swan – **Coronation Address:** R.R. Farr – **Attendant Activities:** Dancing, supper – **Source:** *Fairfax News*, October 30, 1874

August 24, 1876

Location: Cedar Grove, over looking Pohick Bay; coronation in a “leaf-canopied pavilion” – **Marshals:** Justice Kerby, Fairfax – **Charge:** J.S. Beach, Alexandria – **Knights and Prizes:** Knight of Black Hawk - 1st; Knight of Fairfax - 2nd; Knight of Cameron - 3rd; Knight of Golden Spur - 4th – **Queen:** Myrtle Cockerille, Fairfax County – **Maids:** Roberta Fayma, DC; Susie Potter, Fairfax; Miss Cooksy, Centreville – **Attendant Activities:** Dancing from 10 am - 2pm and again “near the twilight hour” – **Source:** *Alexandria Gazette*, August 31, 1876

October 3, 1878

Sponsor: Alexandria and Fairfax Agricultural and Industrial Association – **Location:** Alexandria (five acres at the upper end of King Street) – **Type:** Grand Tournament – **Marshals:** R.D. Catts – **Judges:** General Fitzhugh Lee; J.R. Johnston; W. B. Daingerfield – **Charge:** Col. Wm. K[illegible]jour – **Number of Knights** 20-21 – **Knights and Prizes:** L.B. Pattie, Knight of the Turf; W.H. Palmer, Knight of the Valley; Horace Bailey, Knight of Moray - Tied for 1st G.M. Barnes, the Reckless Knight and J.H. Swartz, Knight of Germantown - Tied for 2nd Richard Lee, Knight of Buckland and B.D. Utterback, Knight of the Lone Star; L.C. Lynn, The Unexpected Knight; C.E. Gibbs, Knight of the Patches; Benjamin Hunter, Knight of Fairfax; Henry Bailey, Knight of Old Dominion; Peter R. Pullman, Knight of Erin; C.A. Wrenn, Knight of Cedar Hill; W.C. Johnston, Prince Selab; J.E. Legg, Knight of Paris; W.F. Whaley, Knight of Pleasant Valley; C.F. Mohler, Knight of Centreville; J.S. Collard, Knight of Irene; William R. McLean, Knight of Dishpan; Luther Reed, Knight of Tucker; William Watkins [no title] – **Coronation Address:** Coronation and ball dispensed with for lack of time – **Attendant Activities:** Clown knight dressed as an Indian on a bull with a rake – **Source:** *Alexandria Gazette*, September 18, 1878, and October 3 and 4, 1878

August 18, 1886

Sponsor: “A number of young gentlemen of the Franconia neighborhood” – **Location:** Gaillard’s Grove, Franconia – **Marshals:** F.O. Triplett –

Aides: Alfred Gibson – **Judges:** George W. Triplett; Leroy Martin; Donald McLean – **Charge:** Julian W. Holt, Alexandria, orator – **Knights and Prizes:** Everett Triplett, Knight of Dunbarton - 1st; L.G. Reed, Knight of Garden Ridge - 2nd; J.H. Kerby, Knight of Prince George, Maryland - 3rd; J.H. Johnson, Knight of Mt. Eagle - 4th – **Queen:** Rena Harrison – **Maids:** Virginia Kerby; Miss Martin; Kellie Kerby – **Attendant Activities:** Dance with “a fine band” – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 13, 1886 and May 20, 1955, p. 1

September 10, 1886 - Grange Exhibition

Sponsor: Grange Association – **Location:** Grange Camp, near Loring – **Type:** Grand Tournament – **Knights and Prizes:** 4 prizes – **Attendant Activities:** Ball – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, September 3, 1886

August 24, 1899

Location: Annandale – **Type:** Amateur and Professional – **Judges:** Thomas Seaman; Clarence Sprigg; John Trumbull – **Knights-Amateur:** William Lowry, Knight of the Golden Rod - 1st; Thomas Head, Knight of Munson Hill - 2nd – **Knights-Professional:** W.L. Clark, Knight of Virginia Boy - 1st; A.B. Staats, Knight of Vienna - 2nd; Beauregard Swartz, Knight of Saulsbury - 3rd – **Queen:** Nettie Brown – **Coronation Address:** Lewis H. Machen, Fairfax – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, September 29, 1961, p. 4

July 4, 1900

Location: Residence of T. R. Stoneburner, near Fort Myer – **Knights and Prizes:** Abia Stracts, Knight of Vienna - 1st place; W. L. Clark, Knight of Virginia Boy - 2nd place; E. B. Kitchen, Knight of Greenway - 3rd place – **Source:** Esther J. Crooks and Ruth W. Crooks, *The Ring Tournament in the United States*, Richmond: Garret and Massie, 1936, pp. 54-55

September 3, 1900 - Labor Day

Location: Burke’s Station – **Type:** Amateur and Open – **Charge:** R. E. Lee – **Knights and Prizes:** “At least \$50 in tournament Prizes” – **Coronation Address:** L. H. Machen – **Attendant Activities:** Picnic, baseball game; no liquor – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 17, 1900

September 13, 1900

Location: Fairfax; coronation ball in Willard’s Hall – **Number of Knights:** 14 – **Knights and Prizes:** Harry Palmer, Knight of Old Virginia, Arlington

- 1st, \$50; W.L. Clark, Knight of Virginia Boy, Bailey's Crossroads - 2nd; Luther Kirby, Knight of Fairfax, Langley - 3rd; Richard Cleveland, Knight of America, Bailey's Crossroads - 4th – **Queen:** Annie Withers, Fostoria, Alexandria County – **Maids:** Maud Kenton, Bailey's Crossroads; Connry Cleveland, Seminary; Dora Bailey – **Coronation Address:** Lewis Machen – **Attendant Activities:** Ball – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, September 21, 1900

August 19, 1903^a

Location: Stoneburner's Park (Barcroft) – **Knights and Prizes:** W.L. Clark - 1st; Esler Palmer – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 21, 1903

September 7, 1903 - Labor Day

Location: Stoneburner – **Knights and Prizes:** Harry Palmer - 1st; Esler Palmer (also in "Royal Set") – **Queen:** Mrs. Richard Moncure – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, September 18, 1903

August 11, 1906^a

Location: Orien Triplett farm, near Franconia Station – **Knights and Prizes:** Head, Fairfax County; Downs, Fairfax County; Burns, Fairfax County; Broadus, Fairfax County – **Queen:** Miss Bladen – **Maids:** Miss Jackson; Miss Rice; Miss Grohan – **Coronation Address:** George Humphries, Fairfax – **Attendant Activities:** Dinner, dancing "until late in the afternoon" – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 17, 1906

October 26, 1906

Location: Ingleside, on the GF and ODRR; coronation and ball in Langley Hall – **Judges:** Albert Perry; William Shaeffer; William Merchant – **Charge:** John Stewart, Sr. – **Number of Knights:** 8 – **Knights and Prizes:** R.M. Stalcup, Knight of Idlewood; W.T. Kirby, Kight of Ingleside; H.D. Hurst, Knight of Bluebells; C.W. Thomas, Knight of Blue Ridge; Guy T. Rogers, Knight of Wayside; F.B. Kirby, Knight of Maplewood; John Stewart, Jr., Knight of Driving Park View; Thomas Heald, Knight of Glenmeade – **Queen:** 1 – **Maids:** 7 – **Attendant Activities:** Ball – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, November 2, 1906, p. 3

October 4, 1907 - "Virginia Day"

Location: Great Falls – **Type:** Championship Tournament and Ladies Tournament – **Marshals:** George W. Swink – **Aides:** Nolan Trace –

Judges: W.H. Palmer; R. R. Koester; Robert Mateer – **Charge:** Hon. R.E. Lee; Ladies addressed by Hon. R. Walton Moore – **Knights and Prizes:** Thomas Head, Knight of Munson Hill - 1st; J.G. Hobbs, Knight of Rockey Glen - 2nd; C.D. Hobbs, Knight of Arlington - 3rd; J.F. Blanford, Knight of Anheuser-Busch - 4th – **Lady Knights:** Mrs. Annie Balderson - 1st, gold watch; Dorothy Row - 2nd, gold bracelet; Maffie Carper - 3rd, gold watch fob; Mrs. A. Fuss - 4th, umbrella; Nellie Davidson - 5th; Mable Anderson - 6th – **Coronation Address:** Hon. Lewis H. Machen - Knights; Hon. R. Walton Moore - Ladies – **Attendant Activities:** Ladies tournament, fireworks, electric illumination of the falls, ball – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, October 11, 1907, p. 3

July 4, 1908

Location: Bailey's Crossroads – **Marshals:** Ritchie Cleveland – **Number of Knights:** 12 – **Knights and Prizes:** T. Head - 1st – **Queen:** Rose Stewart – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, July 24, 1908, p. 2

August 21, 1908

Location: The Falls – **Type:** Ladies Tournament – **Charge:** Major Carrington, Washington DC, "gallant and old Confederate veteran" – **Number of Knights:** 4 – **Knights and Prizes:** Mrs. Rose Bradley, Knight of Chain Bridge - 1st; Miss Maffie Carper, Knight of Blue Ridge - 2nd; [illegible] Edith Row, Knight of Falls Church - 3rd; Mrs. Mabel Anderson, Knight of Annandale - 4th – Cash prizes – **Coronation Address:** F.S. McCandlish – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 28, 1908

October 2, 1912

Location: Five Oaks – **Type:** Amateur and Professional – **Charge:** Col. R.E. Lee Jr. – **Knights - Amateur:** Will Duncan; James Murnane, Jr.; Henry Myers; W.H. Maffett – **Queen - Amateur:** Miss Shugars – **Knights - Professional:** A.E. Herring; Henry Hurst; [illegible] Langley; C.W. Bell – **Queen - Professional:** Ada Thompson – **Maids:** Miss Carper; Miss Jeannie Thompson – **Coronation Address:** Wilson M. Farr – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, October 11, 1912

June 10, 1914

Sponsor: Given by Hirst Brothers – **Location:** West Annandale – **Type:** Amateur and Professional – **Knights - Amateur:** John Carper, McLean - 1st - Divided purse of \$8.00; Henry Hirst, Langley - 2nd; R.L. Watkins,

Oakton - 3rd – **Knights - Professional:** Thomas Head, Knight of Munson's Hill - 1st; James Downs, Knight of Arlington - 2nd; Herbert Hirst, Knight of Falls Church - 3rd; Charles Bladen, Knight of Annandale - 4th – **Queen:** Mrs. Edgar Bailey – **Maids:** Minnie Dean; Miss Moore; Mamie Cleveland – **Coronation Address:** Col. R.E. Lee Jr. – **Attendant Activities:** Baseball games – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, June 19, 1914

August 1914

Sponsor: Given by Messrs. Downs, Springfield – **Knights and Prizes:** James Downs - 1st; W. Cassidy - 2nd; Mr. Oliver - 3rd; Tom Bladen - 4th – **Queen:** Clara Bennett – **Maids:** Minnie Dean; Mamie Much, now of Washington, DC; Robbie Byrne – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 28, 1914

September 7, 1914 - Annual Labor Day

Location: Copperthite track, Burke's Station – **Knights and Prizes:** Purse of \$50 – **Attendant Activities:** Racing, picnic, music, dancing, Cavalry troop exhibition riding – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 7, 1914, p. 3 and August 21, 1914

September 9, 1914

Location: Oliver's Grove, West Annandale – **Type:** Amateur and Professional – **Knights - Amateur:** Charles Bladen, Jr. – **Queen - Amateur:** Mrs. Edgar Bailey – **Maids:** Emma Downs; Dorothy Smith; Irene Bladen – **Knights - Professional:** Tom Head - 1st – **Queen - Professional:** Minnie Dean – **Maids:** Clara Bennett; Elizabeth Coffey; Susie Lloyd – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, September 11, 1914

August 5, 1916 - Second Annual McLean Day

Sponsor: McLean School and Civic League – **Location:** School and Civic League grounds, McLean – **Type:** Amateur and Professional – **Marshals:** J. Parker Milburn (chief); Wm. Maffett (assistant) – **Aides:** W.W. Mackall; Charles Mackall (assistants); R. F. Koester (timekeeper) – **Judges:** F.G. Carper; Edward Stalcup; T.B. Walters; Clifton Laughlin – **Oration:** E. Hilton Jackson, Herndon – **Charge:** Franklin Williams, Jr. and Major Charles Hine – **Knights - Amateur:** C.M. Fox, Fairfax - 1st; J.F. Carper, McLean 2nd; Benjamin Mackall, Langley - 3rd; R.L. Watkins, Mt. Liberty - 4th – **Queen - Amateur:** Miss Carper, McLean – **Maids - Amateur:** Miss Britts, Washington; Miss Mackall, Georgetown; Miss

Smith, Oakton – **Knights - Professional:** J. Blandford, Washington - 1st; J.H. Murnane, Chestnut Grove - 2nd; H.D. Hirst, Langley - 3rd; J.H. Carper, McLean - 4th – Cash prizes – **Queen - Professional:** Miss Chrisman, Oakton – **Maids - Professional:** Miss LaSalle, Maryland; Miss Carper, Carper's Hill; Miss Myers, Washington – **Coronation Address:** D.S. Mackall – **Attendant Activities:** Foot races, baseball game, dancing, contests, chicken dinners – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 11, 1916, p. 3

August 4, 1917 - Third Annual McLean Day

Sponsor: McLean School and Civic League to benefit school and community – **Location:** McLean – **Type:** Amateur and Professional – **Marshals:** J. Parker Milburn – **Aides:** Mark Turner; W.W. Mackall; Charles Mackall (assistants); F.L. Trammell (timekeeper) – **Charge:** Herbert F. Williams, East Woodford (amateurs); Dr. A.F. Zimmerman, El Nido (professionals) – **Knights - Amateur:** J.F. Kolbe, Knight of M.W. of A. - 1st; Hialmer Carper, Knight of Sharon - 2nd; William Powell, Knight of Bellview - 3rd; Henry Magarity, Knight of Ball's Hill - 4th – **Knights - Professional:** H.D. Hirst, Knight of Langley Boy - 1st; J.F. Love, Knight of Prince George - 2nd; L.D. Love, Knight of Maryland - 3rd; A.L. Adams, Knight of Old Dominion - 4th – **Coronation Address:** Wilson Farr, Fairfax – **Attendant Activities:** Games and sports, oration by Lewis H. Machen, refreshments, dancing by electric lighting – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 10, 1917

October 4, 1917 - Fairfax County Fair^b

Location: Fairfax Fair fairgrounds; ball in the pavilion – **Charge:** Col. R.E. Lee, Jr. – **Number of Knights:** 12 – **Knights and Prizes:** M.D. Hunt, Knight of Langley Boy - 1st; J.M. Carper, Knight of McLean - 2nd; S.S. Henson, Knight of Arlington - 3rd; H.A. Peck, Knight of Old Virginia - 4th – **Queen:** Mrs. J. M. Carper – **Maids:** Bernice Jones; Edna M. Swart; Mrs. W.M. Fox – **Coronation Address:** Wilson M. Farr – **Attendant Activities:** Exhibits and fair activities, orations by C.C. Carlin and Lewis H. Machen, ball – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, October 12, 1917, p. 2

August 1918 - Fourth Annual McLean Day

Sponsor: To benefit the Red Cross – **Location:** McLean fairgrounds – **Type:** Amateur and Professional – **Marshals:** J. Parker Milburn (chief);

Eph. Jackson (assistant) – **Aides:** W.W. Mackall, Charles Mackall (aides); Mafie Carper, Mrs. J. H. Carper (scorekeepers); F.L. Trammell (timekeeper) – **Judges:** F.G. Carper; B. H. Swart; R.F. Koester; Edward Stalcup – **Charge:** Edward Linn; Hon. Franklin Williams – **Number of Knights:** Amateur - 9, Professional - 15 – **Knights - Amateur:** Hialmer Carper, Knight of McLean - 1st; Benjamin Mackall, Knight of Langley - 2nd; W. Powell, Knight of Bellview - 3rd; Morrell Magarity, Knight of Lewinsville - 4th – **Queen - Amateur:** Esther Wells – **Maids - Amateur:** Mildred Cockrill; Irene Wrenn – **Knights - Professional:** J.S. Blandford, Knight of D.C. - 1st, gold medal; Thomas Head - 2nd; Henry Hirst - 3rd; John H. Carper - 4th – **Queen - Professional:** Catherine Chrissman – **Maids - Professional:** Alma Soper; Mafie Carper; Mrs. J.H. Carper – **Coronation Address:** D.S. Mackall – **Attendant Activities:** Airplane feats, Great Falls home guards drill, band music, old-fashioned country dinner, patriotic addresses, dancing, open air moving pictures – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 9, 1918, p. 2

August 2, 1919 - Fifth Annual McLean Day

Location: McLean – **Type:** Amateur and Professional – **Marshals:** John R. Stewart – **Aides:** W.W. Mackall, Charles Mackall (aides); Mrs. J. H. Carper, Mafie Carper (scorekeepers), John Shepherd (timekeeper) – **Judges:** F.G. Carper; J.S. Ball; Edward Stalcup; R.F. Koester; Sydney Follin; Clifton Laughlin – **Knights - Amateur:** William Powell – **Queen - Amateur:** Agnes Young – **Maids - Amateur:** Miss Barker; Miss Peyton; Miss Matthews – **Knights - Professional:** Jack Blanford, Washington - gold medal – **Queen - Professional:** Mamie Carper – **Maids - Professional:** Frances Wheeler; Julia Stewart; Miss Brown – **Attendant Activities:** Fair events and attractions – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 8, 1919, p. 3

July 4, 1921 - Firemen's Carnival

Sponsor: Vienna Fire Department to pay for the “recently purchased motor fire engine” – **Location:** Vienna school grounds – **Type:** “Tournaments on horseback and in automobiles” – **Knights and Prizes:** Alfred Adams – **Coronation Address:** Walter T. Oliver – **Attendant Activities:** Speeches by Senator Swanson and Representative R. Walton Moore, baseball games, dancing, music, fireworks, raffle of touring car – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, July 8, 1921

August 1922 - Eighth Annual McLean Day

Location: McLean – **Type:** Amateur and Professional – **Queen - Amateur:** Miss Bishop – **Maids - Amateur:** Miriam Storm; Sarah Rowens; Bessie Wells – **Knights - Professional:** Mr. Love – **Queen - Professional:** Meta Wilkerson – **Maids - Professional:** Mrs. McConkey; Miss Cullen; Miss Carper – **Attendant Activities:** Ball, races, baby show, etc. – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 18, 1922

September 2, 1922 - Centreville Day

Sponsor: School League of Centreville – **Location:** Centreville – **Charge:** John W. Rust, Fairfax – **Knights and Prizes:** Lester Mohler, Knight of Washington; William Reeves, Knight of Chantilly; Louis Wells, Knight of Centreville; W.A. Marshall, Knight of Virginia – **Queen:** Katherine Mills – **Maids:** Margaret McWhorter; Miss Weatherholtz; Mrs. Marshall – **Coronation Address:** Wilson M. Farr, Commonwealth's Attorney – **Attendant Activities:** Flag presentation, athletic contests, relay race, children's games, dance – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, September 15, 1922, p. 5

August 4, 1923 - Ninth Annual McLean Day

Sponsor: To benefit "various public interests of McLean" – **Location:** McLean; coronation in parish hall – **Marshals:** J.H. Carper ("Grand"); Louise Loving (assistant) – **Aides:** Miriam Storm; Bessie Wells; Mafie Carper, Mrs. J. H. Carper (timekeepers) – **Judges:** Clifton Laughlin; French L. Trammel; J. Clemens Storm – **Number of Knights:** 24 – **Attendant Activities:** Tug of war, antique auto race, athletic contests, baseball game, baby show, public speaking, band music, dancing – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, July 20, 1923 and August 3, 1923

September 1923 - Forestville Day

Location: Forestville – **Type:** Amateur – **Knights - Amateur:** Willard Dailey - 1st; Kline Wenzel - 2nd; Roy Pool - 3rd – **Coronation Address:** Hon. Walter T. Oliver, Fairfax – **Attendant Activities:** Baby contest, women's nail driving contest, ball games, dancing – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, September 7, 1923, p. 3

September 15, 1923 - First Centreville District Community Fair

Location: New Centreville high school grounds; ball in auditorium – **Marshals:** Beauregard H. Swart – **Charge:** Dr. Russell, Herndon –

Knights and Prizes: George Stewart - 1st - Purse of \$50.00; A. Daily - 2nd; S. Henson - 3rd; Aubrey Skinner - 4th – **Queen:** Merle Compton – **Maids:** Miss Shaffer (crowned by J. Moran); Lillian Cook (crowned by B.H. Swart); Miss Skinner – **Attendant Activities:** Baseball game, orations by Hon. Frank L. Ball (senator-elect) and others, demonstrations, exhibits, games, dance with radio music from New York, refreshments, relay race – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 24, 1923, September 7, 1923, p. 3 and September 21, 1923

July 4, 1924 - Fourth Annual Firemen's Fair

Sponsor: Vienna Fire Department, to benefit the fire company – **Location:** School grounds, Vienna – **Charge:** R.C. Lewis – **Knights and Prizes:** J.T. Love - 1st; W.D. Hurst - 2nd; G.P. Head - 3rd; George Stuart - 4th – **Attendant Activities:** Baseball games, Antioch Rod and Gun Club shoot – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, July 11, 1924, p. 3

August 24, 1924 - Tenth Annual McLean Day

Sponsor: McLean Fire Department and School & Civic League, to benefit fire department, school and community – **Location:** McLean Schoolhouse grounds – **Marshals:** John Carper (“grand” marshal) – **Aides:** Clifton Laughlin, French Trammell (assistants); Mrs. J.H. Carper, Maffie Carper (timekeepers) – **Judges:** Miriam Storm; Bessie Wells – **Charge:** F.S. McCandish – **Number of Knights:** 26 – **Knights and Prizes:** Mr. Love, Knight of Prince George - 1st; W.L. Herron, Knight of Washington - 2nd; Dr. Patterson, Knight of Cleveland Park - 3rd; S. Henson, Knight of Colombia - 4th – **Queen:** Mrs. B. Marlow - crowned by substitute – **Maids:** Mafie Carper- crowned by substitute; Lillian Robey- crowned by substitute; Viola Reynolds- crowned by substitute – **Attendant Activities:** Booths, refreshments, band, baseball game, ball – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 29, 1924

October 8, 1924 - Fairfax County Fair

Sponsor: Fairfax County Fair Association – **Location:** Fairfax County fairgrounds – **Number of Knights:** 20 – **Knights and Prizes:** Theodore Gates, Knight of Silesia, Silesia, MD - 1st; George Stewart, Knight of North Capitol, DC - 2nd; Henry Hearst, Knight of McLean - 3rd; J.F. Love, Knight of Maryland Boy - 4th – **Attendant Activities:** Fair activities, coronation ball – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, October 10, 1924

August 15, 1925 - Annual Forestville Day Celebration

Location: Forestville; dancing in open air pavilion and in the auditorium – **Type:** Professional – **Knights and Prizes:** Henry P. Hurst, Langley - 1st; Thomas P. Head, Munson's Hill - 2nd; LeRoy Poole, Forestville, 3rd – **Attendant Activities:** Ladies nail driving contest, fat ladies race, tug of war, baseball game, booths, food, dancing – **Source:** *Herndon Observer*, August 27, 1925, p. 4

September 16, 1925 - Fairfax County Fair

Location: Fairfax County Fairgrounds – **Judges:** Mrs. James Carper, McLean; B.H. Schwartz; E.M. Palmer – **Knights and Prizes:** A.D. Bailey, Knight of Virginia, Clarendon - 1st; A. Bailey, Knight of Great Falls - 2nd; W.L. Harrison, Knight of Washington - 3rd; John McKonkie, Knight of Dixie, Prince Georges County, MD - 4th – **Attendant Activities:** Exhibits, Cavalry troop exhibition drills, horse races, music, dancing – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, September 11, 1925 and September 18, 1925

August 7, 1926 - Twelfth Annual McLean Day

Location: McLean – **Number of Knights:** 4 – **Knights and Prizes:** Love - 1st; Head - 2nd; Hirst - 3rd; Carper - 4th – **Coronation Address:** Hon. H. E. Hanes, Herndon – **Attendant Activities:** Coronation dance, exhibits, Voters League, throwing games, baby show – **Source:** *Herndon Observer*, August 12, 1926, p. 1

August 20, 1926 - Groveton Day^d

Sponsor: Groveton Community Club – **Location:** Groveton – **Charge:** J. Fred Birrell, Alexandria – **Number of Knights:** 10 – **Knights and Prizes:** Jack Ayers, Knight of Gum Spring - 1st; George Mooney - 2nd; Carl Wease - 3rd; Earl Popkins - 4th – **Queen:** Viola Ayers – **Maids:** Virginia Mooney; Maize Parker; Mrs. Earl Popkins – **Attendant Activities:** Baseball game, Charleston contest, DC orchestra, refreshments – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 27, 1926

September 4, 1926 - First Annual Annandale Day

Sponsor: Annandale Community and School League – **Location:** Annandale – **Type:** Great Tournament – **Knights and Prizes:** Prizes \$25, 15, 10, 5 – **Attendant Activities:** Band concert, ball game, baby show, races, pie-eating, tug of war, dancing, refreshments – **Source:** *Herndon Observer*, August 26, 1926, p. 8

September 4, 1926 - Forestville Day

Location: Forestville – **Charge:** Hon. W. T. Oliver, Fairfax – **Knights and Prizes:** Roy Poole - 1st; Adrian Dailey - 2nd; John Carper - 3rd; Willard Dailey - 4th – **Queen:** Miss Cockrell – **Maids:** Miss Hawley; Mrs. R. L. Dailey; Mrs. Willard Dailey – **Coronation Address:** Hon. H. E. Mason, Herndon – **Attendant Activities:** Ball game, baby show, races, novelty stunts, contests, tug of war, coronation dance – **Source:** *Herndon Observer*, September 9, 1926, p. 1

September 6, 1926 – Groveton Day

Sponsor: Groveton Community Club, to benefit the community house building fund – **Location:** Groveton, farm of W.F. Pierce Reid (Mt. Vernon District Supervisor) – **Type:** Amateur tournament – **Marshals:** “Wes” Swart – **Judges:** Swart boys from Centreville; Squire Pickett; Carroll Woolf – **Charge:** Judge Robinson Moncure – **Number of Knights:** 12 – **Knights and Prizes:** Peyton Ayres - 1st; L.A. “Lud” Popkins - 2nd; George Mooney - 3rd; A.H. Roberts - 4th; Mr. Wilkerson; L.M. Ayres; Horace Woolf; Robert Woolf; Howard Hinegartner; Carl Wease; John Starnell; Earl Popkins – **Queen:** Virginia/Mildred Pettitt – **Maids:** Mary Wease – **Coronation Address:** Capt. Thomas R. Hamilton – **Attendant Activities:** Fort Humphreys^e band, baseball game, all day picnic – **Source:** *Herndon Observer*, September 9, 1926, p. 1; *The Fairfax Herald*, August 27, 1926, September 3, 1926 and September 10, 1926

October 9, 1926 - Annandale Community Celebration

Sponsor: Annandale School League, to benefit the school treasury – **Location:** Annandale – **Marshals:** “Wes” Swart – **Judges:** Mr. Maddux; John Smith; Luther Ayres – **Charge:** Noel Garner, “legal light of Alexandria” – **Knights and Prizes:** Henry Hurst, Langley - 1st; Richard Langley, Clarendon - 2nd; Phil Love, Maryland - 3rd; A.C. Dailey, Great Falls - 4th; A.D. Langley; The McConkeys; John, James and H.L. Seibe; L.B. Poole; L.D. Love; George Peterson; B. Kirby; James Murnane; C.W. Mooney; George Stewart – **Coronation Address:** Hon. Frank Ball – **Attendant Activities:** Baseball game, refreshments, “guess the number of beans” contest – **Source:** *Herndon Observer*, October 21, 1926, p. 1

October 22, 1926 - Mount Vernon District Fair

Location: Woodlawn – **Knights and Prizes:** A.D. Kirby; A.H. Roberts; Kirk Wilkerson – **Attendant Activities:** School exhibit – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, October 29, 1926

July 30, 1927 - Thirteenth Annual McLean Day

Sponsor: McLean community organizations and McLean firemen – **Location:** McLean – **Charge:** Hon. Walter Tansill Oliver – **Number of Knights:** 13 – **Knights and Prizes:** Thomas Head, Knight of Munson's Hill - 1st; James McConkey, Knight of Stignation, Oxen Hill, MD - 2nd; L.B./Roy Poole, Knight of Oak Grove, Great Falls - 3rd; A.C. Dailey, Knight of Shady Oaks - 4th – “Handsome prizes offered” – **Coronation Address:** Rained out - planned delivery by H.E. Hanes – **Attendant Activities:** Baseball game, baby show, band music, refreshments, exhibitions, politicians soliciting votes – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 5, 1927; *Herndon Observer*, August 4, 1927, p. 1

August 17, 1927 - Groveton Day

Sponsor: Groveton Community Club – **Location:** Groveton Field – **Charge:** E.R. Allen – **Knights and Prizes:** Carl Wease - 1st; Earl Popkins - 2nd; L.A. Popkins - 3rd; A.D. Kirby - 4th – **Queen:** Margaret Bayliss – **Maids:** Mrs. Earl Popkins; Irene Pullman; Eleanor Appich – **Coronation Address:** Fred Birrell – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 26, 1927

September 5, 1927 - Labor Day Picnic

Sponsor: Groveton Community Club, to benefit the building fund – **Location:** Groveton Field – **Charge:** E.H. Allen, Accotink, Past Master of Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows – **Knights and Prizes:** L.A. Popkins, Knight of Groveton - 1st; Earl Popkins - 2nd; John Howell - 3rd; John Tyler - 4th – **Queen:** Irene Pullman, by substitute Charles Richardson – **Maids:** Mrs. Earl Popkins; Theresa Boyd; Margaret Van Pelt – **Coronation Address:** J. Fred Birrell, Alexandria – **Attendant Activities:** Trap shoot, children's field events, horse race, coronation, dancing – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 26, 1927 and September 9, 1927

October 21, 1927 - Third Mount Vernon District Fair

Location: Woodlawn – **Charge:** Hon. E.H. Allen, Newington – **Knights and Prizes:** John/Claude Tyler - 1st; Jack/ M.L. Ayres - 2nd; Peyton Ayres - 3rd; S.E. Ayres - 4th – **Attendant Activities:** Exhibits with prizes, refreshments, spelling matches, tournament ball – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, October 28, 1927; *Herndon Observer*, October 27, 1927

September 3, 1928

Sponsor: Groveton Community Club, to raise funds for community advancement – **Location:** Groveton – **Charge:** Edmund L. Allen, Groveton – **Knights and Prizes:** John Tyler - 1st; Peyton Ayers - 2nd; Ethelbert Ayers - 3rd; Carl Wease - 4th – **Queen:** Mildred Carroll – **Maids:** Jennie Pettit; Anna Baggett; Ruby Shaver – **Coronation Address:** Atty. Frederick L. Flynn: “an address teaming with the history of chivalry” – **Attendant Activities:** Ball game, bicycle tournament, coronation ball – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, September 7, 1928

July 4, 1929

Sponsor: Mt. Vernon Grange – **Location:** Woodlawn – **Charge:** E.H. Allen, Newington; Harvey E. Clapp also spoke – **Knights and Prizes:** Carl Wease - 1st; Jack Ayres - 2nd; Bert Ayres - 3rd; Peyton Ayres - 4th – **Attendant Activities:** All-day picnic – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, July 12, 1929

October 27, 1934

Sponsor: Colvin Run Citizens Association – **Location:** Joseph A. Wheeler farm Huntmere, near Brown’s Chapel, Dranesville District – **Type:** “Old fashioned” Amateur and Professional Tournament – **Managers:** A.D. Langley of Clarendon, and Joseph A. Wheeler (assistant) – **Marshals:** Roberta Ayers, McLean, and Edna Conover, Washington; Mrs. Mafie Hurst, Mrs. Sophie Carper (scorekeepers) – **Judges:** B.H. Swartz, Fairfax; Stewart Preece, Vienna; Mark Turner, Forestville – **Address:** Former State Senator Joseph L. Bristow of Ossian Hall – **Charge:** R.S. Crippen – **Knights - Amateur:** Roland Wheeler - 1st; Clyde Wenzell - 2nd; J.A. Wheeler - 3rd; Reed Thomas - 4th – **Queen - Amateur:** Ruth Heatwole – **Maids - Amateur:** Mrs. Edna Thelander; Mrs. J.A. Wheeler; Louise Crowell – **Knights - Professional:** Warren McConkey, Oxen Hill, MD - 1st; John McConkey - 2nd; J.F. Love, Silver Spring, MD - 3rd; Ed Gibbons, Oxen Hill, MD - 4th – **Queen - Professional:** Thelma English – **Maids - Professional:** Cora Sewell; Carrier Reynolds; Margaret Crump – **Coronation Address:** State Senator John W. Rust of Fairfax – **Attendant Activities:** Oyster and chicken supper, decorations, lunch, coronation dance – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, October 19, 1934, p. 1 and October 26, 1934, p. 1; *Herndon Observer*, October 18, 1934, p. 1 and November 1, 1934, p. 1

July 27, 1935

Sponsor: Colvin Run Citizens Association – **Location:** Huntmere Farms of J.A. Wheeler, near Brown's Chapel – **Type:** Amateur and Professional Tournament – **Address:** Judge Paul E. Brown – **Coronation Address:** State Senator John W. Rust – **Attendant Activities:** Dance – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, July 19, 1935, p. 4

September 28, 1935

Location: Huntmere Farm – **Charge:** Edith Rogers, Fairfax County Supervisor for Floris – **Source:** *Herndon Observer*, October 3, 1935, p. 8

August 1, 1936^a - McLean Day

Location: McLean; dance in school auditorium – **Type:** Automobile Ring Tournament – **Judges:** J. Hunter Mack, John W. Preston, J.N. Payne (all McLean) and B.H. Swart (Fairfax) – **Knights and Prizes:** Phil Love, Colesville, MD - 1st; B. Blandford, Towson, MD - 2nd; H.B. Claggett, Jr., Upper Marlboro, MD - 3rd; Henry D. Hirst, McLean - 4th – **Queen:** Mrs. J. M. Love – **Maids:** Mrs. Ellen Blandford; Dorothy Forest, Piscataway, MD; Marie C. Hirst, McLean – **Coronation Address:** State Senator John W. Rust – **Attendant Activities:** Coronation dance – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 7, 1936, p. 5

August 1936 - Second Annual Floris Fair

Location: Floris School grounds – **Type:** Amateur – **Number of Knights:** 14 – **Knights - Amateur:** Thurston Presgraves - 1st; Franklin Ellmore - 2nd; Joe Wheeler - 3rd; Charles Embry - 4th – **Maids:** Mrs. Louise Presgraves; Mrs. Dorothy Bowman; Mrs. Charles Embry – **Attendant Activities:** Exhibits – **Source:** *Herndon Observer*, August 27, 1936

September 18, 1937 - Third Annual Floris Fair

Location: Floris School grounds – **Type:** Open to anyone – **Marshals:** R.C. Peck (Superintendent) – **Aides:** Blakemore Fleming; Holcomb Rogers – **Knights and Prizes:** Franklin Ellmore - 1st – Ribbons to first four places; ribbon awarded to best performing horse – **Queen:** Charlotte Lovelace – **Attendant Activities:** Agricultural exhibits, sweepstakes, coronation ball – **Source:** *Herndon Observer*, September 23, 1937; *Program and Premium List of the Floris Community Fair*, August 25, 1937, Fairfax County Park Authority Collections

September 3, 1938 - Annual Colvin Run Carnival

Sponsor: Colvin Run Citizens Association – **Location:** Colvin Run – **Type:** Automobile and horse tournament – **Judges:** Mr. and Mrs. John Carper; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hurst; B.H. Swart – **Charge:** Miss Florenze Jodzies – **Coronation Address:** James U. Kincheloe – **Attendant Activities:** Horse and pony show – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 26, 1938, p. 1

September 10, 1938 - Fourth Annual Floris Community Fair

Location: Floris School grounds – **Type:** Open to anyone – **Marshals:** R. C. Peck (Arrangements) – **Judges:** “Judges decision to be final” – **Knights and Prizes:** Franklin Ellmore - 1st – **Queen:** Charlotte Lovelace – **Attendant Activities:** Exhibits – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, September 16, 1938, p. 1; *Herndon Observer*, September 15, 1938; *Floris Fourth Annual Community Fair Program*, September 10, 1938, Fairfax County Park Authority Collections

October 15, 1938

Location: Lord Fairfax Club, near Alexandria – **Marshals:** A.D. Langley, Arlington (“Grand marshal”) – **Aides:** Mrs. H.D. Hurst (scorekeeper) – **Judges:** Estler Palmer; Arthur Godfrey; H.D. Hurst; S.E. Ayers; Dr. S.B. Moore – **Charge:** Charles Henry Smith, Alexandria – **Knights - Amateur:** Arthur Stickney II, Arlington - 1st – **Knights - Professional:** B.V. Parrin, Prince Frederick MD - 1st – First Prize Cup – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, October 14, 1938, p. 1

August 28, 1940 - Sixth Floris Community Fair

Location: Floris; coronation ball in Herndon School auditorium – **Type:** “A riding tournament” – **Knights and Prizes:** Franklin Ellmore, Floris - 1st; Claude Monroe, Floris; John Peck, Floris; William Cockrell, Floris – **Queen:** Charlotte Loveless [Lovelace] – **Attendant Activities:** Exhibits, contests, greased pig contest, ball – **Source:** *Herndon Observer*, August 29, 1940, p. 1

September 14, 1940 - Third Annual Tournament

Sponsor: To benefit the American Red Cross – **Location:** Historic Lord Fairfax Club, below Alexandria – **Type:** Novice and Professional – **Marshals:** A.D. “Dick” Langley, Arlington (Chairman, has been directing tournaments for 45 years) – **Aides:** Dr. Carson Lee Fifer; William K.

Coakley; Francis H. Fannon; Arthur C. Stickley, II; Mrs. H.D. Hurst, Fairfax (official scorer) – **Judges:** Estler M. Palmer (Arlington); Senator John Rust, Robert D. Graham, H.D. Hurst, R.S. Ross, Earl Popkins, Adrian Fisher (all Fairfax) – **Charge:** Francis H. Fannon, Alexandria – **Number of Knights:** 20+ – **Knights and Prizes:** Charles R. Blount, Alexandria - 1st; 1939 winner and defending champion A.M. Prothro, Alexandria – **Attendant Activities:** Horsemanship exhibition – **Source:** *Herndon Observer*, September 5, 1940, p. 1

August 27, 1941 - Seventh Floris Community Fair

Location: Floris School grounds – **Charge:** J.H. Rice, Herndon High School Principal – **Knights and Prizes:** Franklin Ellmore - 1st; Aubrey Skinner - 2nd; John Peck - 3rd; Arliss Bowman - 4th – **Queen:** Joan Arbrogas, DC – **Maids:** Louise Cockerille; Miss Skinner; Mrs. Arliss Bowman – **Coronation Address:** Edith Rogers – **Attendant Activities:** Exhibits, dancing – **Source:** *Herndon Observer*, September 4, 1941, p. 1

September 13, 1941 - Fourth Annual Tournament

Location: Lord Fairfax Club below Alexandria – **Type:** Novice and Professional – **Marshals:** A.D. “Dick” Langley, Arlington (Chair, has been directing tournaments for 46 years) – **Aides:** Dr. Carson Lee Fifer; William K. Coakley; Francis H. Fannon; F. Blair Swart; Dr. John A. Sims; Mrs. H.D. Hurst, Fairfax, (official scorer) – **Judges:** Estler M. Palmer (Arlington); Senator Rust, Robert D. Graham, H.D. Hurst, R.S. Ross, Earl Popkins, Adrian Fisher (all Fairfax) – **Charge:** Francis H. Fannon, Alexandria – **Number of Knights:** 20+ – **Knights and Prizes:** 1940 winner and defending champion Charles R. Blount – **Source:** *The Fairfax Herald*, August 29, 1941, p. 1

August 20, 1942 - Floris Community Fair

Location: Floris Community Fairgrounds – **Knights and Prizes:** John Peck, Herndon - 1st; William Cockrill, Herndon - 2nd; Aubrey Skinner, Sterling - 3rd – **Attendant Activities:** Exhibits – **Source:** *Herndon Observer*, September 3, 1942, p. 1

Notes

- a. This date is a close approximation because the specific date was not clear in the newspaper article.
- b. Refer to *Yearbook* Volume 26 to read an article on the history of the Fairfax County Fair.
- c. Forestville is now known as Great Falls.
- d. The community of Groveton is south of Alexandria on Route 1.
- e. Fort Humphreys was renamed Fort Belvoir in 1935.

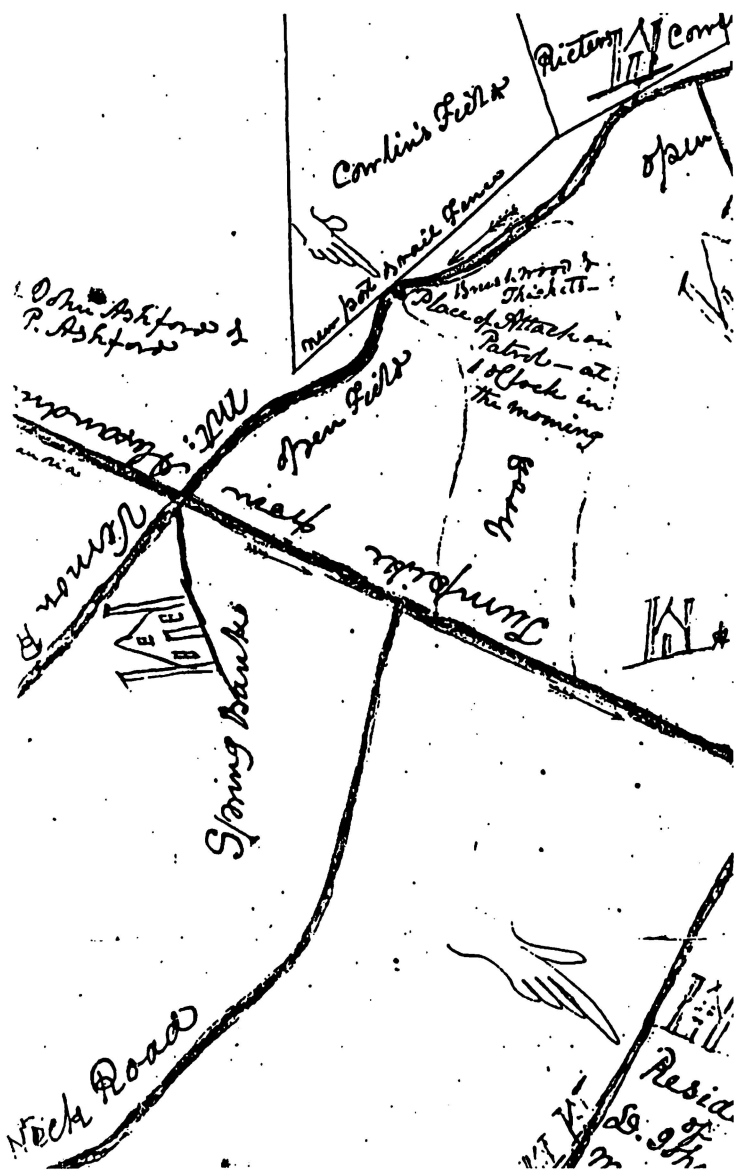


Figure 1. On a portion of the larger 1840 map, the finger in Cowlin's Field at upper right points out the site of the "outrage" along modern Kings Highway. Spring Bank Plantation's main house is at mid-left. Coming from mid-right to left, the road labeled "Turnpike from Alexandria" is now known as Route 1. Where it intersects with historic Mt. Vernon Road at Spring Bank, is where modern Route 1 bends to the left. At bottom right, the finger points towards modern Fort Hunt Road and historic West Grove Plantation. Library of Virginia

Outrage Near Spring Bank: Slave Resistance in Fairfax County

By
Edith Moore Sprouse

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On Saturday night last, as the patrol for Fairfax County, near town, were on their way home, they were suddenly assaulted by a party of blacks, who had concealed themselves, and who rushed out, armed with clubs, with an evident determination to kill or disable those whom they attacked. The patrol consisted of four men, on foot, who were entirely unarmed. The blacks were supposed to be six or seven in number. Three of the patrol were knocked down, and, after a severe struggle, dreadfully beaten, and left senseless in the road.

One of the patrol made his escape, and this, it is thought, caused the gang to hurry off sooner than they would otherwise have done, as they were, doubtless, fearful that an alarm would instantly be raised. The scene of the outrage was in the neighborhood of Spring Bank.¹ We learn that, although the men thus beaten were severely injured, yet there is no danger of loss of life or limb. Four of the blacks concerned in this assault, have been apprehended, identified, and committed to the jail of Fairfax County.

Alexandria Gazette March 5, 1840

Apparently five slaves attacked the patrol in an attempt to rescue two others who had been taken into custody for not having their papers. On March 11, Alfred, Spencer, Taylor, and Henry, slaves of Dennis Johnston,² were brought into court along with Dennis, a slave

belonging to the estate of Daniel Monroe.³ They were charged with, "having on the night of February 27, 1840, conspired and made Rebellion and Insurrection by lying in ambush for and attacking the Patrol under the command of Stephen B. Jones, John Ashford and Francis P. Ashford,⁴ members of the said Patrol." The defendants pleaded not guilty and were returned to the county jail. Two attorneys, Henry W. Thomas and Bernard Hooe, Esq., were assigned to defend the prisoners.

The next day, having heard the evidence, the court ruled that Alfred and Spencer did willfully and maliciously assault and beat the three patrollers with intent to kill them, but that the other three were not guilty. The convicted men were to be held in the jail until the third Friday in April, then "to be removed from the said Jail to the place of Public Execution, and between the hours of 12 and 2 o'clock of the same day, to be hung by the neck until they be dead."

Since the State had to recompense the owners of the condemned men, their value was judged at \$850 for Spencer and \$900 for Alfred. Silas Burke, the presiding Justice, stated that the testimony in this case was not taken down by the Clerk in open Court, but was agreed to be made up from the notes of the Counsel. Both George Mason of Hollin Hall, the committing Magistrate, and his cousin Richard C. Mason⁵ testified that the corrected testimony was accurate.

The necessity for patrols had arisen as an aftermath of the slave Gabriel's attempted insurrection in the 1830s.⁶ Fairfax County assigned men in groups of five to patrol within a five mile radius of certain places in the county, searching for illegal gatherings of slaves and for those individuals on the roads without a pass from their master.

John Ashford, one of this patrol, stated that, "on former occasions when this Patrol met the accused, the said negroes were in bodies, and were rude and impudent: - that on the night of the conflict, the witness was called on by the Capt. of the Patrol (Jones) to make their round, and in their progress, first met Mr. Foote's⁷ Negroes. They were stopped, their papers examined, and were discharged. At that moment some other Negroes came up, among whom he recognized Spencer, Alfred, Henry & Dennis and believes Taylor was also there (at Hunting Creek Bridge⁸) with others, among them one called John Mudd. The meeting was about 10 o'clock on Saturday night- he thinks he heard the ten o'clock Bell, or Clock in Alexandria. The Patrol, by the aid of a match, lighted a Candle and had the Negroes examined for

their papers, which were read by F. P. Ashford and Jones; one of the Negroes, he thinks Spencer, walked up and whistled in Jones' face, when Jones told him if he did not go off he would slap him in the mouth or punish him."

"Two boys who were in company with the accused were found not to have papers, when Jones determined to take them into custody. The prisoners were slow to go away from them, and delayed for some time when they departed. The Patrol then started with the boys, and kept on the out edge of town until they reached the Stone Bridge⁹ - they continued their round until they got to Catts Tavern,¹⁰ saw a boy come out of Catts' gate and ascertained he belonged to the drovers; they looked about Catts for some time to see that all was quiet, then went on to the ford at Cameron Run, and on crossing the same arrived at the forks of the road, one leading to Mount Vernon and the other toward Occoquan. - they took the Mount Vernon road and pursued it until they came near Richter's¹¹ place, a distance of more than ½ mile from the forks of the road, where the Prisoners were lying in Ambush- the Patrol made a halt. The Prisoners on left hand side of the road where Brush-wood has grown up on ground which was cut down some ten or twelve years ago, where they stopped. Jones desiring to step aside for a moment, desired some of the Patrol to examine the ropes on the boys' hands, and if they were too tight to loosen them; At that moment the Prisoners sprang out and attacked Jones, who was knocked or fell down; witness saw several Sticks used in striking him. F. P. Ashford then interfered when he was knocked down- then witness ran up, and by the use of his stick squandered the Negroes, when Jones was enabled to get up. Prisoners then turned on witness, who received many blows, which, in a manner, stunned him; the next thing he saw was Jones doing something with John Mudd who was down on the ground, when Spencer struck witness with a stick which he held in both his hands, and felled him to the ground- witness was utterly insensible to what passed afterwards, and his recollection did not come to him for some time after he got home. Spencer, Alfred, Taylor and Henry were all four present, and he thinks Dennis was also there but was bearing around towards the place where the boys stood, who were tied; after that he saw neither Dennis nor the boys, one of the boys was Dennis' son- can't tell how many blows he received, was struck several times on and about the head, his neck was much bruised and swelled, felt no blows about the body."

Ashford was then cross examined:

The affair happened about one o'clock at night, weather was clear-saw the first big morning star, could distinguish the Prisoners at a distance of about Ten feet, know them so well, he had no difficulty to distinguish them; - the moment they raised up he recognized them as the same negroes they had met at the Bridge- thinks no other weapons but sticks were used by the Prisoners- the place where the affray occurred was about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the Bridge,- from the said Bridge to Catts about one mile and about two miles from Catts to the Battle ground, he supposes the boys are about 15 or 16 years old, they smelled of Fish and said they carried Fish to town and sold them- Before the attack by the Negroes, patrol passed Cowlin's house,¹² where a young dog belonging to Cowlin came out at them- witness could identify the dog at a distance of ten or fifteen feet. Twas perfectly clear when the big stars shone, it was dark and a little cloudy about 9 o'clock when the Patrol started out.

Stephen B. Jones was then examined:

He stated that on the 29th of February while patrolling they sat down near the Hunting Creek Bridge before Mr. Foote's negroes came up. Jones' account differed slightly from Ashford.

When they took the boys into custody, the men rested against the rails of the Bridge for some minutes and delayed about going off, but did go towards West Grove,¹³ their Master's Residence. The hesitancy and manner of the negroes attracted the attention of the Patrol; witness and Fr. Ashford both noticed it and spoke about it, witness would not suffer their light to blow out, altho' it was twice proposed by some of the Patrol . . . reached Catts' Tavern about 11 o'clock, saw a man walking towards the Stable and found him to be a Drover [a man employed to drive cattle to the market], they sat on the steps a while, then pursued their course, crossed Cameron Run and pursued their course up the hill, when one of the Patrol remarked there was a light at Murkle's (the Toll keeper at the Bridge). They passed Cowlins' and saw a light there, were attacked by a dog, and he thinks before they reached Cameron, that perhaps the cords ought to be shifted on the Boys hands . . . witness was in the act of stepping back to tell the Patrol that there were Mr. Johnston's negroes when Alfred, Spencer and Mudd attacked him and fell upon him with their clubs . . . at the attack fell down and kicked very high, being like a Surgeon and better on his back than on his feet. Witness then sprang

up and ran toward Spring Bank, and as he ran was seized by the tail of his coat by a man when a scuffle ensued- witness felt in his pocket for his knife intending to kill the assailant, when he recollected he had lent it to Ashford who broke it- he then drew the stick out of the negroe's hands, and used it in his own defense- Spencer then came up and joined in the affray and knocked a witness down. John Ashford came up, and called out to know what they were all doing there- Spencer took the stick from witness and using with both hands, knocked John Ashford down. John Ashford did not strike any of the negroes. When John Ashford was knocked down, witness sprang up and ran up the road, when he was met by another man whom he took to be Alfred.

Witness finding himself hemmed in, attempted to get over the fence, when he fell in Cowlin's field, and Spencer sprang upon the fence, struck him, and called out, "Damn you, I will kill you," witness got up and made his escape- he found one of the sticks at his gate the next morning, his gate is near the public Turnpike Road,- he received no other injury than the beating with the clubs. Alfred struck a blow at witness and made a mark on the fence now to be seen- witness supposed two or three of the Patrol were killed. Can't say that Taylor and Dennis were in the affray. Saw Dennis on the Bridge, does not recollect that Taylor was- Henry was on the Bridge, but can't say he was in the battle ground: - Henry is the Brother of one of the boys and Dennis is the Father of the other- saw nothing insolent in the manner of Dennis, Henry or Taylor. The sky was fully covered with stars-don't recollect to have seen the Big Stars. Did distinguish Cowlin's dogs at the distance of 30 or 35 or 41 yards.

Francis P. Ashford examined for the State:

He stated that his father had examined the prisoners' papers.

Francis Ashford held the candle- witness heard Prisoners muttering but can't know what they said- he expressed his apprehension they would attack the Patrol and he objected to have the light put out. The Prisoners went on sulky toward the south end of the Bridge and their masters house which was not more than ½ a mile from that spot- the Patrol then pursued the route towards West End. . . .

Francis Ashford¹⁴ examined for the State:

He was present on the night of 29 February when the Patrol was attacked . . . the party consisted of seven or eight persons. John

Ashford was about the center of the road when he was knocked down- the Negroes had small sticks but no clubs at the bridge.

Michael Ashford examined for the State:

His testimony varied between the draft notes and the finished version. In the first version Ashford said he picked up the sticks on Sunday morning. The word "sticks" was crossed out and "clubs" substituted. The completed version returned to "sticks."

The sticks were on the ground which were represented to him as being the place where the conflict occurred- he saw large quantities of blood then on the ground. The remainder of Ashford's statement "that the points of the heads deeply indented as if stamped into the ground and the ground beaten around, as if many blows had been stricken at the head after the party had been knocked down" did not appear in the final account.

Dr. Richard C. Mason¹⁵ examined for the State:

On the night of February 29th last I was called up something after one o'clock by a youth of the neighborhood named Charles Lawson who informed me that his uncle Stephen B. Jones had just arrived at his father's (William Lawson) and reported that a number of negro men belonging to Mr. Dennis Johnston had waylaid the Patrol under his command, and had fallen upon them with clubs and had killed John Ashford and Francis P. Ashford, who were then lying dead upon the ground of attack: that he Jones had been much beaten but had succeeded in making his escape, and Jones requested [me] to go immediately to the Ashfords who were supposed to be dead, to see if any aid could be afforded them. Under the impression that the story may have received some colouring from the agitation of the youth, and that the Ashfords too as well as Jones may have escaped, I directed the young man to gallop back to the ground and ascertain if the Ashfords were still there, and if so to let me know and if so to let me know and I would go immediately to them. He went off and I saw him no more- about a quarter past three o'clock I was called up again by Michael Ashford and John Collard,¹⁶ and was by them informed that John and F. P. Ashford had got in, the former at his Fathers and the latter at his Brother Michael's, both very severely beaten as they reported by Mr. Johnston's Negroes.

Accordingly, the next morning I rode over to see the Ashfords but on my way called to see Jones who had arrived home very early that morning; although lamed by a blow he received on his hip, and bearing other bruises about his limbs, I found he had not received any deadly or dangerous injury. After receiving an account from him of the affair the night before I hastened on to the Ashfords, of the extent of his injury I was for the first time duly impressed, and found John Ashford terribly beaten indeed- so much so that his whole visage and appearance now so changed by the swelling and bruises received, that I did not recognize him, one very heavy blow had been inflicted over the left eyebrow, cutting through integuments to the bone for near three inches, the effect of which was to occasion a degree of swelling that closed and obscured that eye thereby distorting very much that side of the upper part of his face; another blow of similar character had been inflicted on the left side of his neck which produced very extensive tumefaction of the neck and lower jaw.

There was also another blow on the top of the head, but less injurious in extent than either of the former. There were besides sundry cuts and bruises about the mouth and the right side of the face, which appeared to me to have been inflicted by stamping and kicking with a heavy shoe. The first two described I viewed as most seriously to be dreaded in their consequences.

Being informed that he had vomited frequently since his arrival, (which was evidence of high degree of disturbance of the brain) and as he complained of great pain and was labouring under high excitement of pulse, I instantly bled him very copiously and made the necessary applications to his wounds and bruises.

I found Francis P. Ashford also at his father's, and in the same room with his brother, and on examination found that he had received two blows upon the head, one apparently a very heavy one, from the extent of the cut, and contusion occasioned by it, that was on the left side of the head above the ear, the other was less severe and was on the opposite side of the face and more behind- he was vomiting and continued to do so repeatedly in my presence, indicating the same disturbance of the functions of the brain, and as he was complaining of most intense throbbing pain thru' his head and a strongly excited pulse, he too was bled very profusely, and by it was promptly relieved of his most alarming symptoms- though it afterwards became necessary to give him active purgative medicine, after which he has

done well- John Ashford on the contrary although for the first few days appeared to get better as rapidly as could be expected, was arrested in his course of amendment by the appearance of neuralgic symptoms, first showing themselves as convulsive twichings in his right thigh, so strong as to throw him back in his chair in attempting to rise. That symptom, which suddenly disappeared after a confluence of some days, was followed instantly by the severe pain and affliction across the small of the back, under which he is now labouring, and is evidently dependent upon the shock and concussion given to the Brain and spinal marrow of the neck. From Ashfords I proceeded on the first morning of my visit to them, to the ground of rencontre, and was surprised to find evidence on the road of the accuracy of Jones' account given to me that morning. The relative position of the parties was distinctly to be pointed out by the impressions upon the scene, exactly as he had previously described, there was the spot where Jones had thrown the Negro man- beyond it the place where John Ashford was felled- and there was the impression of his hand in the sand as if it had been stamped or beaten down and the whole area of that impression was coated with blood, not in a mere stain but clotted in a cake, and there were also around the position of Ashford's head impressions in the sand apparently made by the end of the stick which had failed to take effect on his head- Beyond that was the spot where Francis. P. Ashford had fallen, and there too was evidence of free loss of blood.

Stephen B. Jones examined for the State:

How many Prisoners have you while acting as a Patrol, in the 14 months that you and your Company have been out as such, taken before Magistrates?

Three.

Were they apprehended for not having papers?

No, they were apprehended for ill behavior- the Magistrate tried them- ordered one Thirty lashes, the other Twelve, and discharged the third on account of his general good character, unpunished.

How many have you punished during the above time, without taking them before Magistrates?

Two. By the consent of and in the presences of their Masters, sooner than take them several miles to a Magistrate.

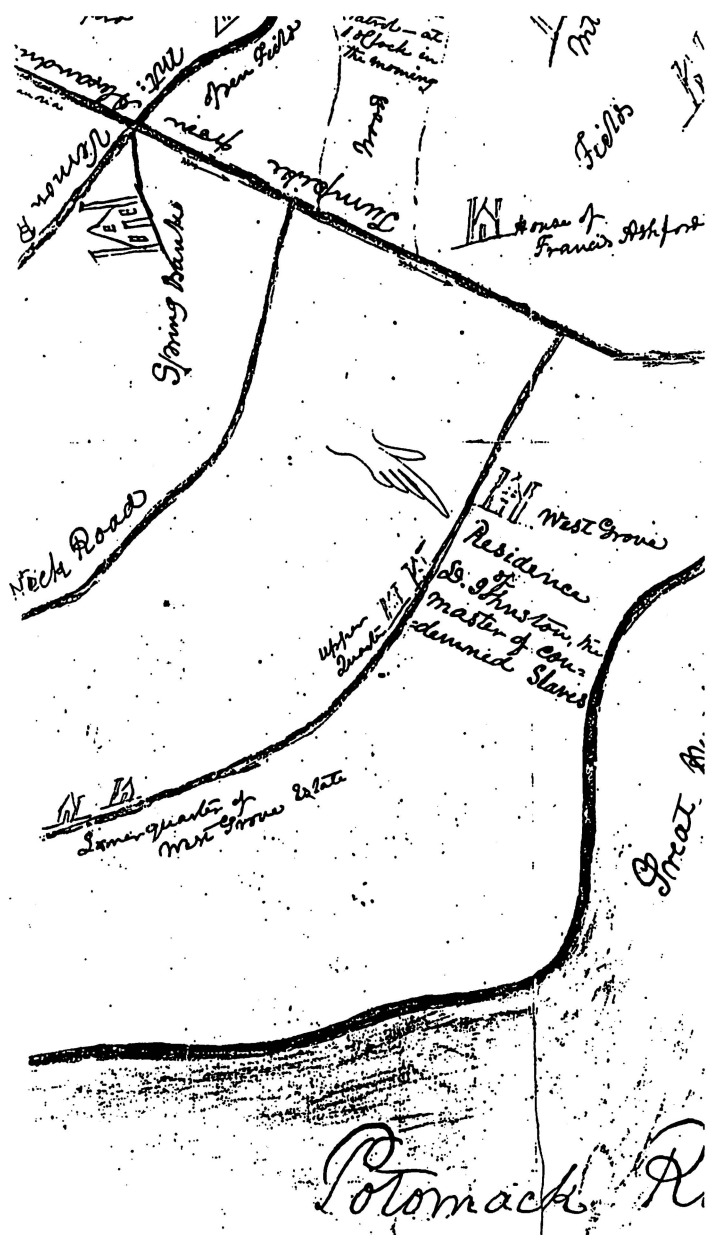


Figure 3. The finger points to the residence of Dennis Johnston, owner of slaves Alfred, Spencer, Taylor, and Henry. West Grove Plantation was located across Great Hunting Creek from Alexandria. The slave quarters were located farther down modern Fort Hunt Road. The home of patroller Francis Ashford is shown at top right. Library of Virginia

How often in the 14 months you have been out as a Patrol have you been on the plantation of Mr. Johnston, the Master of the men now under trial?

Once last June to search for stolen sheep, evidence of which we found there.

Have you ever before, as a Patrol, apprehended any of Johnston's slaves, or punished them in any way?

Never.

Silas Burke, George Mason of Hollin Hall, and Richard C. Mason, as Justices, attested to this testimony on May 7, 1840. Col. Burke noted that a Petition on behalf on Alfred and Spencer had been presented by their attorney, but felt that, "the portion which mentioned that there had been a doubt in the mind of the Court was certainly untrue. He refused to sign it, but learned later that the phrase had been retained in the document sent to the Governor. He also heard that a sentence was added referring to the fact that the slaves were men of good Character- that the injury sustained by the Patrol was much magnified- of especially in the case of John Ashford- the one said to have been most hurt- that to show this- it is stated in the Petition- that 11 days after his beating he rode twenty miles to court in inclement weather. And also, it was asserted in extenuation of their Offences, that these Slaves were driven to Rebellion, by the harsh treatment of this Patrol."

The presiding Justice decided that, in view of these changes, more evidence was needed. He asked George Mason of Hollin Hall, who lived in that neighborhood, to give his testimony, which fully concurred with Col. Burke.

That the slaves Alfred and Spencer, condemned by the County Court of Fairfax on the 12th day of March last, to suffer Death- have for some Years past lived on a plantation, in his immediate vicinity- and that they have always been reputed as men of very bad Character- not only Thieves- but turbulent and outrageous in their behavior- That frequent information has been made to him, as the nearest Magistrate, respecting their Conduct. That Spencer, was charged before him in June, 1839, with the commission of a Felony- for which his warrant has been out to apprehend him, ever since- and tho' he has eluded the officers of the Law- one of the Gang, in company with

whom he perpetrated the same, has been apprehended-tried-convicted and punished- on evidence the most satisfactory- and the proof being precisely similar against all concerned- there cannot be a doubt of the guilt of Spencer.

That the said George Mason was the committing Magistrate in the case of Alfred and Spencer, for the Crimes, for which they were condemned to Death, as aforesaid- and as the whole of the testimony which was afterward offered in Court- was first paper under his review- he deems it proper to state, for the information of the Executive, the nature of the Weapons, sued by these Slaves, in their attack on the Patrol.

As from the face of the Clubs being exhibited in court, there was no testimony given by any of the witnesses on that point.- The two Clubs, first exhibited before him, and afterwards in his presence, in Court- and proven by Michael Ashford to have been found by him the following morning on this Ground of Attack- were between 2½ and 3 feet in length- of about 2½ inches in diameter at the large end, tapering gradually as would be natural saplings- from which, they appeared to have been cut- One of them was of green Locust, the other of Black Oak. The third Club, proven by Stephen Jones, Capt. of the Patrol, to have been found by him, the following morning at his Gate about 1½ miles from the place of attack- was of green Locust- and beyond question cut from the upper end of the Club of the same kind of wood, found on the ground, at the place of attack- as the Cut, by which it had been divided, was a very peculiar one, and on fitting them together, they were discovered to adjust, in all the points of severance, with absolute accuracy, and identity in size. This Club, being thus former of the upper part of the same Sapling as the first- was proportionately less in diameter- but, of similar length.- None of the Clubs were small enough to be wielded with much facility, by any man, with one hand- and the two larger could have only been wielded with ease, even with both Hands, by men of the uncommon physical powers of Alfred and Spencer.

It is true that the two Ashfords did attend the trial of the slaves, which was purposely put off to the last day allowed by law, that if possible they might be able to do so. But such was the situation of both that it was necessary they should be carried there, in one of the best close carriages, to be had in the town of Alexandria- That such was the condition of John Ashford- even at that date, that he was advised, both by his friend and attending Physician- not to attempt the ride-.

He did however go- in this most comfortable conveyance, with the appliances of a sick bed, to Court, a distance or certainly not more than 12 or 13 miles at most. [The author can attest from personal experience that it is indeed 20 miles from that place to the Court-house at Fairfax.]

And the imprudence and danger of the effort, was shown, by his immediate and ardent subsequent illness of several weeks- during the greater part of which time, he was confined to his bed- in great suffering- if not peril.

That the Patrol . . . was ordered out and organized by the said George Mason in January, 1839- men selected with great care, after consultation with the most intelligent and respectable men of the neighborhood. That they all are young men of good Families and Character-regular and orderly conduct- industrious, honest, and worthy. That their Capt. Jones- is especially so- a man of much intelligence-integrity and courage- and well known humanity of disposition- between 35 and 40 years of age- the father of a large family. That in the fifteen months they have been out, no complaint has ever been made of any violation of Law-any harshness or unkindness, in the execution of their duties. But, on the contrary, after the closest scrutiny, when the said George Mason had heard that such assertions had been made, as above stated- he has been unable to discover the slightest ground for complaint- and no one has come forward to prefer any such charge against the Patrol, or any member of it- either on the trial or since. That the said George Mason has resided for many years past in the neighborhood of Alexandria-and during all that time- and more especially in the latter years- where slaves, without any unkind treatment-without sufficient cause- have voluntarily placed themselves in the Jails of the Traders in that Town- and requested to be sold to the South. - That in four cases of this kind- during that time- have occurred in the slaves of his immediate Family- without any conceivable cause, except caprice and the love of change. That they were all Slaves, who had been guilty of no crime or offence from which they could have anticipated any punishment to induce them to do so. And three of the four, of remarkable good character- every one of them, having the nearest relations and connections around them- That more than a dozen similar cases have occurred in his immediate neighborhood in the same space- and that all of all of them are Slaves in the Families of the most respectable persons and best masters- and as far as he can learn, from diligent inquiry only prompted, like his own, by caprice- or the alluring prospect of a Southern

residence. [1] That in the surrounding country he hears, on inquiry of very many similar cases, as having been and are constantly occurring.- That the Slaves in this Neighborhood have . . . no idea, that the Convicts Alfred and Spencer, will be executed- and this impression, more entirely prevails, since the most extraordinary acquittal of the 3rd culprit, John Mudd- and so little effect, has this condemnation- (from the belief that they will only be sent to the South-) yet produced on the slave population around- that only a few nights since, a violent outrage was perpetrated, in the immediate vicinity of where the attack was made, on our Patrol. A White Man- lawfully attempting to arrest a Slave- was knocked off his Horse, and left disabled in the Road.- That this spirit of Turbulence and Insubordination is daily increasing- and unless checked by the influence of some Striking Example, must soon result in fearful Consequences.

George Mason's cousin, Dr. Richard C. Mason, echoed his sentiments by stating that he had known Capt. Jones from his youth up, "and knows no man of sounder integrity, or possessed of a stricter regard for truth . . . he has always found him a valuable and faithful officer, combining zeal and activity with a discretion, in a degree that particularly fitted him for this trust." As to the prisoners, Dr. Mason had heard that "they were roguish not only but turbulent and violent- so much so, that their former master was constrained to sell them; one of them . . . having used violence upon his Master's own person." A neighbor who knew the prisoners' family told him the safety of the neighborhood depended upon the execution being carried out: his job required him to walk alone frequently after dark and he feared revenge.

Dr. Mason agreed with his cousin that the threat of transportation was held lightly by the slave population. Astonishingly, he stated, "it is looked upon merely as a removal to a southern climate; and that so far from being viewed in terror, is in truth a favorite idea with them." He said he had known many instances in which, "servants have run off from their masters, without cause, gone to the jail of the traders in slaves, and insisted upon being sold; and this in some cases attended with a severance of the closest [family] ties." He added that the opinion of the slaves in the neighborhood was that there was no chance of Spencer and Alfred being hung.

Commodore Thomas ap Catesby Jones¹⁷ reported on May 8 that he had been unable to obtain many signatures on the petition asking for mercy for the prisoners, that his neighborhood was so remote from the scene of the incident that few facts were known, but that only one man

was against the hanging. George Mason forwarded this letter to Governor Gilmer, saying, “as coming from a Gentleman of his well known intelligence and high standing- residing, as he does, in the most remote part of our county, I have deemed it but right that you should see its contents.”

On the other side of the matter, George A. Smith wrote on May 12 from Clarens, near the Theological Seminary, that “in regard to the petitions for mercy, one juror, Mr. Ball, was not satisfied with the verdict ‘intent to kill’ and that 19 out of 27 Magistrates in the County have petitioned for commutation, that no serious injury was inflicted upon the Patrol.”

As it turned out, the opinions of neither Mr. Ball or those of the slave population were completely influential. The prisoner Spencer was executed in May. The prisoner Alfred received a reprieve. He was sold to R. Littlejohn on September 16, 1840. Governor Gilmer resigned his office on March 20, 1841, having served just under one year. All that remains from this glimpse of the drama in Fairfax County in 1840 is a contemporary manuscript map of the scene of the crime.¹⁸

Acknowledgements

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Notes

1. Spring Bank, located south of Alexandria on U. S. Route 1 (Richmond Highway) at Kings Highway, was once a part of the West Grove Plantation. Robert Patton, an Alexandria merchant, purchased 128 acres from the heirs of Roger West in 1805. After Patton's death in 1826 the house was rented to John Armfield, a partner in the slave-trading firm of Franklin & Armfield. Its next owner was George Mason of Hollin Hall. An article on Spring Bank appeared in Volume 13 (1973-1975) of the *Yearbook*.
2. Dennis Johnston was the son of George Johnston, the Alexandria lawyer who, before the Revolution, seconded and may have written Patrick Henry's resolutions against the Stamp Act. A Justice of the Fairfax Court, Johnston lived at West Grove some time after 1830. At his death in 1852 his estate totaled more than \$47,000, which included his 70 slaves.
3. Daniel Monroe, the son of Lawrence and Jane Monroe, died before 1854, leaving his widow Elizabeth. (Fairfax County Chancery Final File #63e Monroe vs. Monroe). Their son Edwin lived on Franconia Road; it is uncertain where Daniel resided.
4. Stephen B. Jones was paid for his services as a patroller in 1829, 1836, 1839 and 1840. He lived in the West End of Alexandria. John and Francis P. Ashford (1814-1890) were brothers, living on 177 acres on Telegraph Road two miles south of Alexandria. A frame house at 5917 Telegraph Road may have been built by one of the Ashfords. The Ashford farm was known as Mount Comfort; a portion of the tract is now the Mount Comfort Cemetery.
5. George Mason (1797-1870) of Hollin Hall was a grandson of the Virginia patriot George Mason. The original house, on Sherwood Hall Lane south of Alexandria, had burned in 1827 and Mason lived in a converted spinning house on the tract. After he purchased Spring Bank from the Patton heirs he advertised Hollin Hall in 1848, stating that the farm had 500 acres and a 7-room farm house. Four years later the tract was sold to Edward Gibbs, a Quaker from New Jersey..
6. For more on this topic, see Sally E. Haddon's *Slave Patrols, Law and Violence in Virginia and the Carolinas*, Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 2001.
7. William H. Foote (c.1767-1846) inherited Hayfield from his aunt, the widow of Lund Washington, the manager of Mount Vernon during George Washington's absence. The house burned in 1916, and farm on Telegraph Road is now a subdivision. Sketches of both Hollin Hall, Mount Comfort and Hayfield appeared in Volume 9 (1964-1965) of the *Yearbook*.
8. The Hunting Creek Bridge was built in 1809 by Andrew Bartle for the Great Hunting Creek Bridge Company. Twenty-two feet wide and supported by four piers, it spanned 1200 feet across the creek (Alexandria *Gazette*, April

- 26,1809). Before this time, all travelers used the ford located upstream near the present Telegraph Road.
9. The Stone Bridge across Hooff's Run was located on Duke Street in Alexandria just west of Peyton Street. For many years it served as the dividing line between the town and Fairfax County.
 10. Catts' Tavern. Samuel Catts (1791-1863), a veteran of the War of 1812, kept for fifty years a "drovers' rest" at the west end of town. This establishment offered farmers driving their livestock to market in Alexandria a place to pause and water their animals. Cattle sales took place here. From 1816 to 1861 the annual hiring-out of slaves was conducted from Catts. Political meetings and elections were held at the tavern. Located a block west of the Stone Bridge, it was demolished in 1903.
 11. Cameron Run drained into Great Hunting Creek approximately where Telegraph Road crosses the stream. The "forks of the road" is the present junction with north Kings Highway. John Richter, who became a citizen September 19, 1791, purchased land across Hunting Creek which had been part of the Mount Eagle estate. When Samuel Catts bought the tract in 1829 it was known as "Richter's Folly" (Fairfax County Deed Book Y2:269).
 12. John Cowling (1801-1882), a blacksmith, was a native of Cornwall, England. He became an American citizen in 1816. Cowling lived in the West End of Alexandria and served as a Justice in 1852.
 13. The West Grove Plantation, former home of John West and his son Roger, included the land of the Belle Haven Country Club and extended south to Dyke Marsh. During the Civil War the house was demolished in 1862 by the Garibaldi Guards, but the land remained in the Johnston family until the 20th century.
 14. Francis Ashford (1763-1847), a veteran of the Revolution, was the father of John and Francis P. Ashford. In 1840 he and his wife Henrietta gave their sons 177 acres along Telegraph Road. (Fairfax County Deed Book F3:109). Michael Ashford was another son.
 15. Dr. Richard C. Mason (1793-1869) was also a grandson of George Mason of Gunston. He grew up at Hollin Hall, and served as a Justice of the Fairfax court in 1819. He practiced medicine in Alexandria and inherited from his father the farm on Telegraph Road which he named "Oakley," now a part of Huntley Meadows Park. He ran for the Virginia House of Delegates in 1833. During the Civil War his property, with that of many other Southern sympathizers, was confiscated by the U. S. government.
 16. John Collard (1804-1875) lived south of Alexandria in Groveton. He is buried in the family cemetery on Arundel Avenue in that community. An article about the Collards appeared in Volume 22 (1989-1990) of the *Yearbook*.

17. Thomas ap Catesby Jones, USN (1790-1858), lived at Sharon, near Lewinsville. His career is discussed in Volume 25 (1995-1996) of the *Yearbook*.
18. The map was included in the documents of the Commonwealth vs Alfred and Spencer, which were sent from the Fairfax County Court to the Governor. The material for this article was taken directly from the Papers of Governor Thomas Walker Gilmer at the Library of Virginia.

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To Set the Record Straight for Volume 28 (2001-2002)

On pages 53 and 54 of Naomi Sokol Zeavin's article "The Bailey Family: From Menagerie to Crossroads" the following people were accidentally omitted from the author's Acknowledgements: U. S. Representative Thomas M. Davis and National Park Service Historian Emeritus Edwin C. Bearss.

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